



THE CATHOLIC.

Hamilton, C. D.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4th, 1843.

THE GREATEST THIEF CRIES THIEF.

Our Protestant preachers and fanatical scribblers have got, they think, a fine occasion of renewing their declamations against popish tyranny and persecution for conscience-sake, in the decree (real or fictitious, for they have produced no official authority proving it to have been issued as they state,) against the Jews residing in Ancona. We are confident, that, when the particulars of the case are known, it will turn out to be but a wise measure of police rendered necessary by the refractory and insubordinate conduct of the Hebrews.

But it is the word *Inquisition*, so constantly used by designing Reformers to frighten from popery their babes of grace: it is this word, which means no more than *Inquiry*, that calls up to their disordered imaginations the ideas of racks, chains, dungeons, gibbets and burning piles. Yet where on earth were these horrors so long and remorselessly exhibited, as in our own country since the Reformation, down from Henry the Eighth, the father of our law Church, to the vulgar pedant James the First, of witch-burning memory, and the Star Chamber cruelties under Charles the First, the solitary martyr of our Anglican Sect? We say nothing of the hideous statutes recorded in our persecuting code of laws enacted against Catholics, and carried down to our own times; a portion of which still remains in full operation against us. And for what? Not on account of our disloyalty or misdemeanor, but merely to bolster up and prevent from sinking that parliament Church, which its followers always proclaim in danger, when any mitigation of suffering, or relaxation of persecution, is granted to the mother Church.

Their cry is ever against the persecuting spirit of Rome. Yet, we defy them to point out in History, even since the pretended Reformation, a single victim rack'd, hang'd or burn'd by our Popes, for Conscience-sake. If other Catholic Sovereigns have acted differently, their state policy may sometimes be to blame; but not their Church, for the cruelty of their conduct.

On some future occasion we may revert to this subject.

His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to call the Honbles. W. W. Baldwin, Christopher Widmer, Rene Joseph Kimber, Amos Irving, Louis Massue and Pierre Boucher de Boucherville, to the Legislative Council.

From the Kingston Chronicle.
Governor General's Speech.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

I am happy to meet you assembled for the discharge of the high functions entrusted to you. Various considerations of importance have prevented my calling you together at an earlier period.

Since your last Session, the birth of a Princess has diffused joy throughout the British Empire, and we have reason to be deeply grateful for the continued protection vouchsafed by Almighty Providence to our gracious Queen, whose life and health are blessings to her Subjects.

In the same interval, an afflicting event has occurred in Canada by the demise of your late Governor, my immediate predecessor, whose heart was devoted to the public welfare. Universal regret has done honor to his memory throughout the Province; and I cannot abstain from noticing that his desolate widow and family, and his mortal remains, in passing through the neighboring territories of the United States to their place of embarkation at New York, were received with marked and affecting tokens of friendly respect, which indicated both the esteem in which he was held in a country in which he had been personally well known, and also a generous sympathy worthy of the great nation by which it was evinced.

The Act of the Imperial Legislature which facilitates the introduction of Canadian Wheat, and of Flour prepared in Canada, into the Ports of the United Kingdom, will, I trust, prove to be a valuable boon to this Province, and is a further proof of Her Majesty's unremitting care for the prosperity of this portion of Her Dominions. A copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Secretary of State on this subject will be laid before you.

Measures will be submitted to you for the improvement of the system of Judicature in Lower Canada; of the Municipal Institutions; the laws relating to Education, and the Jury System of both divisions of the United Province, and of the Assessment Laws, in Upper Canada, as well as on other important subjects; all of which will, I am sure, engage your earnest attention.

I have recently made a tour through the Province, such as the exigency of public business would permit, in order that I might become in some degree acquainted with local circumstances requiring attention.

I have had great gratification in seeing a fine Country, evidently advancing in improvement; and have every where been received with manifestations of Loyalty to our gracious Sovereign, and with personal kindness to myself.

It has been highly satisfactory to me to witness the great works in progress, which, owing to the Loan raised in England under the Guarantee of the Imperial Government, the Province has been enabled to undertake or prosecute. They are calculated, I hope, to extend the Commerce, and develop the Resources of this vast Country, and increase the Public Revenues and general and individual wealth.

In those parts where works of this description are in progress, I found contentment prevailing at the prospect which they present. In other parts there is a cry for improved Roads for the conveyance of produce to appropriate Markets, a claim which is worthy of consideration; for on such communications the prosperity of the Country must in a great measure depend. No where was this anxiety more strongly expressed than in the Eastern Townships of Lower Canada, where the Community almost entirely Agricultural, in consequence of the heavy duties imposed on their

produce in the United States, have lost the market to which they had formerly recourse, while the exemption from duty in our Country of the similar produce of our Neighbours enables them, by greater facilities of conveyance, to undersell the Producers of the Eastern Townships in our own Markets. Similar complaints of the effects of the Duties on our produce in the United States, and of the facility given to the admission of their produce into our Territory, are also made in other parts. Whatever improvement can be afforded to our internal communications is so obviously desirable for the advantage of the community, that any outlay devoted to that object, and consistent with the means at command, must be highly beneficial. It is therefore much to be regretted, that the state of the Finances does not afford any immediate prospect of our being able to meet the wishes of many districts deeply interested in this respect.

I cannot refrain from bringing to your notice as a subject worthy of consideration, the state of the Prisons in some portions of the Province. The Penitentiary at Kingston is an institution very creditable to the Country; great cost has been incurred in the erection of prisons in other places, and some of the local authorities are now laudably exerting themselves to provide suitable accommodations for prisoners; but in some places there is great deficiency. The justice due even to criminals requires that they should not be subjected to greater punishment than what is designed by their sentence, and that disease, or death, from foul air and want of exercise, should not be superadded to imprisonment. It is likewise due to untried Prisoners, who may be innocent, that they should not be confined in the same cell with convicted criminals. A classification and separation of the latter is also requisite. Decency and morality demand the same with regard to the sexes; and Debtors and Criminals ought not to be confined together. It is desirable that inquiry should be made in order to ascertain in what respects the Prisons of the Country may be defective in requisite accommodation, and to remedy any material deficiency that may exist.

The Establishment of a Lunatic Asylum in Lower Canada is much required; those who are visited with the affliction of mental aberration being now confined in the common prison, or in some of the Religious and charitable Institutions which do honor to that portion of the Province. Measures are in progress for the permanent location of the Asylum now existing under a temporary arrangement in Upper Canada, and for the completion of the arrangements of that Institution.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

The Accounts for the past, and Estimates for the present year will be laid before you. I am concerned to announce to you that there is a considerable decrease in the Revenue, but I hope that it proceeds from temporary causes, and that it will be followed by a greater increase. The Loan obtained in England, under the guarantee of the Imperial Government, has been raised on advantageous terms.

The act of the Imperial Legislature prescribing a new Tariff, renders necessary a corresponding alteration in our custom Laws, and this subject will be brought under your consideration. I have no doubt of your readiness to provide for exigencies of the Public Service; and as far as that object can be promoted by practicable and judicious economy, you may rely on my co-operation.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

I will not detain you longer from the commencement of your arduous duties. The welfare of Canada depends on the result of your deliberations on the numerous and important

questions which will come before you, and that great end will, I trust, be the sole object of your labours. It is the anxious desire of Her Majesty's Government, and will be the constant aim of my endeavors, I humbly hope that the Blessing of Almighty God will crown our united efforts with success.

Plan for the renewed action of the
Irish Parliament.

1. The Irish people recognise, acknowledge, maintain, and will continually preserve and uphold upon the throne of Ireland, her Majesty Queen Victoria, (whom God protect!) Queen, by undoubted right, and by hereditary descent, of Ireland, and her heirs and successors for ever. The people of Ireland recognise, acknowledge, and maintain, and will continually preserve and uphold, all the prerogatives of her Majesty, and of her heirs and successors belonging to, and inherent in, the imperial Crown of Ireland, and they will truly allegiance bear, pure, undivided, and indivisible to her Majesty, her heirs and successors, for ever.

2. The people of Ireland acknowledge, and will maintain and preserve for ever, the privileges, hereditary and personal, of the peers of Ireland, together with the legislative and judicial authority of the Irish House of Lords, and the exercise of the prerogative in augmenting and limiting the peerage, as the same did of right exist before the year 1800.

3. The people of Ireland do firmly insist upon the restoration of the Irish House of Commons, consisting of 300 representatives of the Irish people; and claim in the presence of their Creator the right of the people of Ireland to such restoration. They have submitted to the Union as being binding by law: but they declare solemnly that it is not founded on right, or on constitutional principle, and it is not obligatory upon conscience. They agree with the Tory Attorney General Saurin that the only binding power of the Union is the strength of the English domination. They also agree with him that resistance to the Union is, in the abstract, a duty, and the exhibition of that resistance a more question of prudence. They will, therefore, resist the Union, by all legal, peaceful and constitutional means.

4. The plan for the restoration of the Irish Parliament is as follows:—1. That the county members should be increased to 173, in the manner hereinafter specified: 2. That there should be 127 members returned from cities and towns, in the manner hereinafter mentioned. 3. That the county of Carlow, being the only county in Ireland with less than 100,000 inhabitants, should get an increase of 1 member, so as to have 3 representatives; that every other county having above 100,000 inhabitants should get an increase of 2 members; that every county ranging above 150,000 inhabitants should get an increase of 3 members.

That every county ranging above 250,000 inhabitants should get an increase of 4 members.

That the county of Tipperary, having more than 400,000 inhabitants, but less than 500,000, should get an increase of 8 members.

That the county of Cork, having more