

officers. Is the Church less a part of our national economy than the judges? Is the Government and nation bound to uphold the judges against any attempted infraction of their rights, from whatever quarter, or under whatever plea it may arise? It would be difficult, my Lord, to convince the clergy and members of the Church of England in Upper Canada that their claim upon the national faith and honour stands upon a less secure foundation. If the differences of the House of Assembly could have been foreseen, as resulting in a delay of years, I am persuaded the Imperial Government would never have recommended the withdrawal of the annual parliamentary grant, much less have contemplated the discontinuance of an annual sufficient income to the successors of the Bishop of Quebec. Surely a Government, possessing sufficient influence to employ, with the full approbation of the country, twenty millions of the public money for the glorious purpose of emancipating the negroes in the West Indies from their bodily thralldom, need not have feared the rebuke or opposition of any sound-hearted man in asking for a few thousands annually (until the Clergy Reserves question was settled) for the still more exalted object of furnishing the means to free from the fetters of sin, through the preaching of the Gospel, tens of thousands of our fellow-countrymen in Upper Canada. If an objector could have been found, it must have been in the ranks of those whose hatred to Christ and his Church is unblushingly avowed, and whose cry is "havock" to every time-hallowed and sacred institution. The Province of Upper Canada ought not to be abandoned to such fearful spiritual destitution by Her Majesty's Government. I humbly crave your Lordship's pardon, if, in appearance even, I should offend against the requirements of that respect which is due to "the powers that be," by the plainness of my language. I feel, because I have for years witnessed, the evils under which our Church in Upper Canada is labouring, and, as I know they are not evils of her own creating, I may be allowed to express an honest, yet respectful indignation, that she should continue unjustly to bear them.

And now suffer me, my Lord, briefly to advert to the actual state of our Church in Upper Canada. Years have passed since the late revered Bishop was in a state of health even to attempt the full performance of his multifarious and ever-increasing duties. None felt, none acknowledged, none grieved more over his own infirmities, and consequent inefficiency, than did Bishop Stewart. It was under the influence of such feelings that he besought the Government to consent to the appointment of a suffragan bishop, although at the sacrifice of one-third of his income. His request was acceded to, and Lower Canada had to rejoice in the advancement of an individual to the episcopacy whose zeal, talents, and piety had conciliated the affections, and claimed the esteem and respect of all. Scarcely had Bishop Mountain arrived in Quebec, when he set out on a tour through the Lower Province; and after journeying and labouring four months I had the pleasure to see him; and he then assured me that he had not nearly finished his intended tour, but that he must return to Quebec to recruit his failing strength. His Lordship could not, by conjecture, state when he should be able to visit the Upper Province. Now, my Lord, should the measure, so oft alluded to, be adopted by Her Majesty's Government, the Bishop of Montreal cannot be expected to visit, extensively, even Lower Canada as a bishop, because, if he did so, it must be with the certainty of involving himself in irreparable pecuniary difficulty. And if Lower Canada must be thus necessarily deprived of his episcopal services, the Province of Upper Canada could never expect a participation in them, however necessary and valuable they might be. And what must be the consequence? The Church, as such, is virtually destroyed. Many, many buildings already erected and in progress of erection in Upper Canada await the consecration of the Bishop; thousands of children are passing the age of confirmation; the clergy everywhere need the comforting and strengthening influence of their Bishop's presence to animate them onwards in their laborious path; the people, in every part, require their zeal for the Church and her ordinances to be quickened into activity by the example and exhortation of a missionary Bishop. Look, my Lord, I implore you, at the Province in its present state. Nearly, if not quite, 200,000 members of the Church of England are scattered over the vast surface of the country, buried, many of them, in the almost inaccessible depths of the forests. At least 80,000 are altogether deprived of the ordinances of the Church. The clergy (whose numbers are already deficient,

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