

for the regulation and establishment of fees, it will be seen that the Governor's fee for a license of marriage under his hand and private seal is settled at one pound, and the fee to be taken by the registrar of the Prerogative Court, the duties of which were in a great measure limited to marriage licenses, was, for the license and bond, twelve shillings and six-pence. This ordinance expired two years after its publication, but the offices continued to exist under each successive administration, and the fees, somewhat increased, have been taken ever since.

The Governor's Secretary, down to the union of Upper and Lower Canada, in 1841, generally held the office of registrar, receiving as a perquisite these fees, which were considerable, and upon a change of administration under Lord Sydenham, when the office was vested in the Secretary of the Province, a Parliamentary enquiry took place with a view to regulate the fees on marriage licenses, and to provide for the regular payment thereof into the public treasury,—a party in the Legislature believing that the salary attached to the office of Provincial Secretary was an adequate provision, and that the funds arising from the fees on licenses could only legally be appropriated by authority of Parliament.

In this state of things the Legislature, looking about for means of paying for the rebellion losses in Lower Canada, passed, on the 9th of June, 1846, an act appropriating that portion of the Marriage License Fund arising in Lower Canada, to the payment of the principal and interest of the Lower Canada Rebellion Losses Debentures; while by the same act the proceeds arising from the Marriage License Fund in Upper Canada, was specially appropriated to Public Charitable Institutions. Subsequently this portion was, by the 13th and 14th Victoria, chapter 70, declared to be at the disposal of the Legislature for public purposes of interest in Upper Canada.

From the above statement it appears that while the funds arising from the dispensations or Marriage Licenses granted by the Roman Catholic Church are received and appropriated by ecclesiastical authorities exclusively, the funds arising from the same sources among Protestants are diverted from their legitimate channel and appropriated to purposes of an opposite and a very objectionable character, viz.; Rebellion Losses, and which would more properly be a charge upon the public revenues of the country than the placing of the Protestant community in a state of inferiority to that of their Roman Catholic fellow-subjects.

M. M. FOTHERGILL.

Session.]

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The Prolocu
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Hon. E. Hal
S. H. Blake, M

and Mr. S. B

Judge Jarvis,
P. Reid, Rev.

Rev. Canon L
and Ven. Arch

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MESSAGE

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