

THE RECTORIES.

From the People's Almanac, 1849.

"This Rectorial fraud is the fruit of injustice the most apparent and astounding; it has been committed in defiance of right, the most sacred and inviolable; and it has written its true character and tendency in the history of the popular commotions it has created, and with the blood of our citizens it has shed."

Many of our readers may ask what is a Rectory? A Rectory, in our dictionaries is described as "a Clergyman who has the care and charge of a Parish Church." A Rectory is "the residence of a Rector; the station, living, rights, and prerogatives of the Rector; a Rector's House; a Parsonage." In the National Church of England the Rectors form severally a religious corporation, and possess peculiar ecclesiastical powers and privileges not only over all the inhabitants, but over all other religious Teachers within their parish. The intentions of the British Government to engraft the curse of a State Church upon all the Colonies is too obvious; and it is notorious that in every one of them where there is any measure of intelligence and spirit, there is a deadly strife raging between the Colonists and their Rulers upon this all important question. The Constitutional Act 31st Geo. III. chap. 31, it is freely admitted, gave power to the Crown to establish and endow Rectories in Upper Canada; but the people having early evinced their determined hostility to the plan of the national Young Men's Association, the Rectors, in answer to the remonstrances of the people, not only held his right to establish and endow Rectories in abeyance for about 20 years, but communicated an Official Message to the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, to take any step in this matter without consulting our local Parliament! The following is an extract from that official Despatch from the then Colonial Secretary, Lord Goderich, to the Lieut. Governor of Upper Canada:—Sir John Colborne—dated 31st Nov. 1832:

"With respect to the charge of showing an undue preference to the Teachers of the Religion belonging to the Established Church of this country, it is so utterly at variance with the whole course of policy which has been the object of my Despatches to yourself to prescribe that I cannot pause to repeat it in any formal manner. His Majesty has studiously abstained from the exercise of his unqualified prerogative of endowing literary or religious corporations until he should obtain the advice of the Representatives of the Canadian People for his guidance in this respect!"

The above Despatch appeared when the minds of the public in England and the Colonies had risen nearly to its height, and it was extensively published throughout the Province, and tended to calm the public mind. It appeared afterwards, however, that this document was only "a delusion and a snare." Sir John Colborne was then in communication with the Colonial Secretary as to the best mode of establishing the Rectories; and the despatch appeared only as "a Decoy-duck" to the more clearly to ensnare the people. This would not have been believed had not a Secret Despatch—written only five months afterwards, (6th April, 1833), from the same Secretary to the same Governor, which accidentally came to light, opened the eyes of the Colonists to the deep and desperate treachery both of the Colonial Office and of the Provincial Government. The following document exhibits a measure of official duplicity when compared with the other, which we can find no language adequate to condemn.

EXTRACT FROM THE SECRET DESPATCH.—Lord Goderich therein writes to Sir John Colborne thus:—"I have considered with great attention the observations contained in your private letter, of February 16th, and the propositions which result from them, and I am quite convinced that you are right in thinking that the greatest benefit to the Church of England could be derived from applying a portion, at least, of the funds under the control of the Executive Government in the building of Rectories and Churches; and I could, in preparing as far as may be, for a possible occupation, that moderate portion of land which you propose to assign to each Township or Parish for increasing the future comfort if not the complete maintenance of the Clergy." With this view, it appears to me that it would be most desirable to make a beginning in this salutary work, by assigning a portion of the fund for the payment of salaries (generally) to a portion of this sum, because I am led to think that it would be expedient with a view to prevent jealousy, and attempts at interfering with the territorial fund, some of it might, for instance, be applied to churches for the Presbyterians, and some for Roman Catholic chapels, and some for the Methodist; particularly that portion of them which may be in connection with the Wesleyan Methodists of this country. I am well aware that the execution of this duty, you will have to steer a difficult course, and that it will require no small tact to determine by what practical means these important objects can be best obtained."

We find no transaction bearing so exact an analogy to this foul plot against the religious liberties of the Province as the swindling of an honest countryman by two city sharpers. Under the highest professions of friendship and honor, they fleece him and escape. Sir John and Lord Goderich may be classed in the same category, for they have swindled the Canadian people of their most valued rights, and, as yet, have escaped. Let us compare the language of the two Despatches from the latter to the former.

In November, 1832—He says, "I have considered with great attention the observations contained in your private letter, of February 16th, and the propositions which result from them, and I am quite convinced that you are right in thinking that the greatest benefit to the Church of England could be derived from applying a portion, at least, of the funds under the control of the Executive Government in the building of Rectories and Churches; and I could, in preparing as far as may be, for a possible occupation, that moderate portion of land which you propose to assign to each Township or Parish for increasing the future comfort if not the complete maintenance of the Clergy."

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—the consulting of the local Parliament is all moonshine, and "it will require no small tact" on your part to keep us out of difficulty. My former Despatch may have lulled the suspicions of the colonists, but, to make the territorial fund doubly secure to the English Church, "it would be expedient" in my opinion, to give a special bill for the Ministers of the Sect; namely, to give a bribe to the Presbyterians—the Roman Catholics—the Methodists—but particularly to the British Wesleyans, our faithful allies!—This is a true type of the Colonial System when unchecked by local responsible institutions. Sir John, stimulated no doubt and aided by Doctor Strachan and the Compact, accomplished this unrighteous design. Fifty seven Rectories were established unknown to the parliament or the people, and in the very teeth of the Royal pledge as given by Lord Goderich, that no act of this kind should be attempted, before obtaining the advice of the Canadian Representatives. This robbery of the Colonists was done in the streets of a faction,—this foul and treacherous plot against the rights and liberties of Canada, was not known until the spring of 1836, after Sir John Colborne had been removed from the government of the Province, and the crime had escaped from the officers of Justice. For this violent and traitorous infraction of the rights of a whole people—the deed of darkness and infamy—all concerned deserve yet to be impeached, and to be sent to Penal Colony for life. As if to crown the infamy of this affair, Sir John, when professing to review the acts of his administration, (in the speech he delivered to the Parliament of U. C. on the 14th January, 1836, on the subject of the Rectories, &c., from the province), makes no allusion whatever to the establishment of the Rectories, but discourses thus to our representatives:—"At this important and favourable crisis, whether the interests of the Colonies shall be promoted, or the wishes of the colony be consulted, the Imperial Government cannot fail to deem it an essential duty to watch over and zealously protect your institutions and cherish the attachment of all classes to the Crown!" This was a fitting climax to the monstrous outrage which he and others had committed against half a million of peaceful and loyal subjects. It is the language of faithlessness and insincerity;—the cant and humbug of a weak, reckless, and unprincipled ruler.

Hope at length flickered in its socket when the fact concerning the Rectories became known to the country in the March or April following: Sir Francis then assumed the reins of government, and a madman—the last ray of hope vanished from the public mind—the Rebellion of 1837 followed; and the Colony was almost lost to the Empire. Statesmen should learn lessons from these melancholy facts. The Rectories embrace about 25,000 acres of the choicest lands in the province besides Town and Park Lots of great value. We give one fact only in evidence of their value. The Rector of London, by permission of the present Parliament at that session actually sold the one half of his Rectory in town lots at public auction, and derived from the sale of it upwards of £7000 C'y!!—i. e., \$28,000 of the public property were literally given over to Bishop Strachan through Baron Cromy of London, the present incumbent of that Rectory, by a sheer oversight and blunder of our Representatives,—under what stipulation, if any, we know not. This fact is sufficient to open the eyes of the people, and to arouse every upright mind to exert all possible and moral means to arrest the progress of this base and iniquitous design to thrust a State Church with all its demoralizing influences, upon the people of this rising Colony.—Let the country therefore sustain the hands of their friends in power, in demanding redress of this mighty wrong, by getting up petitions from every locality, numerous, signed, and let the demand be made that the Rectories be entirely abolished—that their proceeds when sold be applied to Educational or other general purposes; and that, the Clergy of the English Church, as far as support from the civil government is concerned, be put upon the same footing with the Ministers of all other denominations;—that is, let all be left as they ought to be to the support of their respective churches or congregations. The adoption of this measure, the administration from the embarrasment inevitably consequent upon the meeting of Sectarian demands upon the revenue of the country. It will remove the root of the evil.

The friends of Reform now demand full justice at the bar of their friends in power—upon this question of questions. The twenty-five year War for Religious Liberty must now be brought to a close by an honorable peace.

The Executive must know what is public opinion upon these questions. A meeting of the friends of religious equality should, therefore, be held in every township in the Province; the whole should be laid out in a list; a Secretary and Treasurer should be appointed; a committee of active, intelligent men should be chosen to visit every settler with petitions, to both Houses of Parliament, for signature; names obtained should all be returned to the Secretary on a given day; the number of names should then be counted, and the whole should be appended to one written petition, having five or six names on the same sheet, to form either a township petition, or part of a large petition from the County, Riding, or District.

If you want justice, only ask for it. THE NEW ASSESSMENT BILL. From the Journal and Express. We have received a copy of this Bill, introduced by the Hon. P. HICKS, and lay a synopsis of it before our readers. The preamble sets forth that it is expedient to provide a more equal and just system of Assessment for Municipal or Local purposes.

Sec. 1. Repeals Acts in force. 2. States that for all purposes for which local and direct taxes are or shall be levied, all lands and personal property, whether owned by individuals or corporations shall be liable to taxation—with the exceptions only, specified in another clause. 3. Defines the word "Land" as meaning the land itself and all property erected upon or affixed to the same, and all mines, &c., excepting those belonging to Her Majesty. The words "Real Estate," and "Real Property," to signify the same. 4. Defines "Personal Estate" and "Per-

sonal Property," as household furniture, money, goods, chattels debts due from solvent debtor, whether on account of contract, note, bond or mortgage, public stocks or debentures, and stocks in monied corporations whether Canadian or not, and also such portion of the capital of incorporated companies, as shall be owned by a person residing in the Province. The term "Property," to include both real and personal. 5. Exempts the following property—Crown property, places of worship, colleges, court houses and other public buildings; the penitentiary; industrial farms, poor houses, &c., public libraries; all stocks held in behalf of the Province, or on behalf of any literary or charitable institution; the capital stock and personal estate of the chartered banks so long as they are authorized by law to have a tax upon their issues; and the personal property of every person to the extent of three hundred pounds. 6. Provides that stock of a company liable to taxation on its capital shall not be taxed in this Bill. 7. That every person shall be assessed in the Township, &c., wherein he resides, where the assessment is made for all lands, &c., owned by him within such Township, &c., and assessed on the Township, &c., where the same is situated, may be assessed in the name of the owner or occupant. 8. Defines the lands of non-residents. 9. Sets forth that any person shall be assessed in the Township, &c., in a separate roll for all personal property owned by him, and placed under his control as trustee, guardian, executor or administrator. 10. All incorporated companies liable to taxation shall be assessed upon their real and personal property. 11. Taxes levied during the present year to be considered taxes for the year ending 31st December, 1849,—all future taxes to be levied for the calendar year, and to correspond with it. 12. Assessors may divide their locality into assessment districts, not exceeding the number of Assessors. 13. Between the 1st Feb. and 1st April, in each year, the assessor shall make inquiry as to taxable inhabitants and their property. 14. The assessment roll shall be prepared in the manner following:—the first column to contain the names of all the taxable inhabitants of each Township, &c.; the second the quantity of land to be assessed against each person; the third the full value of such land, the fourth, the full value of the personal property owned by such person after deducting all just debts owing by him, and the fifth, the amount of the tax to be levied on each person, as provided by clause 5; the fifth where any resident male inhabitant shall be liable to road tax, hereinafter mentioned. 15. A Trustee, &c., shall be assessed for the same as the owner. 16. Provides that all real and personal property owned or held in trust by him, and the assessment roll to be delivered to the County or City Clerk, as the case may be. 17. An Assessor neglecting any of the duties required of him, to be subject to a penalty of 25s. 18. Rolls shall be examined by the County or City Clerk, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the valuations in Townships, &c., bear a just relation to the value in all the Townships, &c. The County Clerk, however, shall not be liable to diminish the aggregate valuations of real estate in any Township, Village, or Ward, by adding and deducting such sums upon the hundred, as in their opinion may be considered necessary to produce a just relation between all the valuations in the County or City; but they shall in no case reduce the amount of the aggregate valuations in all the Townships, &c., below the aggregate amount thereof as made by the Assessor. 19. The Collector's roll to be made by the County or City Clerk, after the corrected and revised assessment roll. 20. The County Clerk shall set down on such roll, the sum ordered to be levied by the Municipal Council, under the head County Rate, which column shall show the whole sum for which any Township, &c., shall be taxed for County purposes. 21. Taxes for special purposes or particular localities, to be set down in a separate column. 22. The County Clerk to deliver the Collector's rolls to the clerks of the Townships, &c., on or before the 1st June, in every year. 23. In addition to all other taxes there shall be a capitation tax of seven shillings and sixpence, upon all males under 60 and over 21 years of age, for a Road tax, which may be paid in labour on the roads at such rates as the By-Laws of the said Township Councils, &c., may direct. Indigent persons exempt. 24. Every Collector upon receiving his roll, shall proceed to collect, for that purpose, at least once upon the persons taxed. 25. Taxes if not paid within fourteen days after the first demand, to be levied by distress and sale. 26. Six days' notice of such sale to be given. 27. Surplus to be returned to the owner unless claimed by others, &c. 28. Persons removing and neglecting to pay as assessed, shall be still liable for the

amount. 29. Overplus of taxes collected to go towards reducing the taxes for the next year. 40. Collectors may receive the tax on part of a lot on certain conditions. 41. In case the Collector cannot obtain the payment of any taxes, he shall make oath to that effect, and be credited with the amount. 42. Describes the mode of proceeding against any Collector refusing or neglecting to pay over monies by him collected. 43. How and when warrant shall be executed. 44. Mode of proceeding against any Sheriff, or High Bailiff refusing or neglecting to pay over monies levied by him. 45. Every Treasurer and Chamberlain, entering upon the duties of his office, shall give security for the due performance of them. 46. Collectors to give similar security. 47. The taxation levied shall be by estimate of the amount required by each Township, &c., after due notice by advertisement, &c., or exceed the estimate, the deficiency to be made up by the excess deducted from the taxation of the next year. 48. Rolls to be returned by the Collector, and amounts paid over before the 1st day of August each year. 49. A Collector may receive taxes upon lands of non-residents, if tendered to him within the time of his collection. 50. to 63. Relate to the selling of lands owned by non-residents, for the payment of taxes, after due notice by advertisement, &c., so much of the land to be sold as may defray the debt, and the Sheriff or High Bailiff, to be empowered to give a deed to the purchaser. 64. On the receipt of such proceeds the County Treasurer to pay the over to the Township, Village, &c., claiming them. 65. A penalty of 25s to be incurred by Assessors or Collectors making unjust assessments or collections. 66. Sheriff or High Bailiff to incur a penalty if by neglect he fails to execute a duty, directed by this Act. 67, 68 and 69, are the interpretation clauses, the period at which the act shall commence, and the power to amend or repeal during the present session.

Provincial Parliament. HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31, 1849. CLEARY RESERVES AND RECTORIES. Mr. Notman had a petition to present, on which he craved permission to say a few words. It was a petition affecting not the humble petitioners alone, but the whole people of Canada. The people of Canada look to this Parliament to settle the great and important question whether the Canadian people are to enjoy religious freedom to the same extent that they enjoy civil liberty. The great question must be decided, whether invidious distinctions are to be made amongst the different religious sects, and whether a portion of the Church State support to one, whilst it is withheld from another (hear hear). This great question must shortly come up, however much members might desire to put it off; it must be met, and a solemn decision on it, arrived at. The interests of the country require that this question, affecting as it does the tranquility of the Province, must be fairly met, and at once set at rest for ever. In his (Mr. N's) opinion the subject could not be more properly brought under the attention of the House than at the present time. We have on our Statute Book an Act of Parliament passed in a former day, called the Rectories Act, which is a disgrace to any people professing to enjoy civil and religious liberty. Discontent would be felt throughout the land so long as endowments continue to be tolerated, and until religion was left to be supported by the hands of the people, and voluntary contributions, the only way in which the Religion of the Redeemer ought to be maintained. (Hear hear.) This question must be met, despite the efforts of the Government to evade it. He reminded the members on the side of the House especially, that they were sent there by their constituents, on the understanding and with conviction that this great and crying evil throughout the land, should be taken up and not more degraded, to public opinion, which desires no State Church in Canada. Fortunately there is no established church, and (Mr. N.) trusted we never should have. Civil liberty is the people's birthright, and the extent to which they possess a system of Government founded on the immutable principles of justice, and it should be so, with regard to religious institutions also, for so long as endowments were given to half a dozen churches while others were degraded, the people never would be contented. (Hear hear.) The hon. member concluded by reading the petition of the eleven sons and daughters of the late Joseph Griffin of the Township of Flamboro', Gore District, complaining that the lands which their father had bought and cultivated, had been seized and appropriated to the endowment of the Wellington Square Rectory.—Ereminer.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13. The protracted discussion in the case of Vanisitar was this day brought to a close, after some amendments, which were negotiated. Mr. Notman's resolution, that the Government should be held responsible for the removal from the office of Inspector of Licences for the District of Brock, was put and carried by a vote of 44 to 31. The motion being made, that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the whole to take up Mr. Lafontaine's resolutions of indemnifying for war losses. Mr. SUGAWOOD (Toronto) moved an amendment, that the question be postponed fourteen days, which a view that the voice of the country should be heard on the subject. A stormy debate ensued, which lasted the remainder of the sitting. The principal speakers for the resolution were Messrs. HICKS, Nelson and Hicks against it; Col. GUGY and Sir Allan MacNAB.

MONDAY, THURSDAY, FEB. 15. The House resumed the consideration of Mr. Sherwood's motion to postpone for ten days the consideration of the rebellion losses. A stormy debate ensued, in the course of which Mr. Blake applied the term rebel to the gentlemen on the opposite benches. Sir A. MacNAB said that if the hon. gentleman applied the term rebel to him; he should look upon it as nothing but a falsehood. At this moment there was some disturbance in the galleries, and the Speaker called the House to order. The language used by the hon. gentleman was exceedingly unparliamentary. Sir A. MacNAB retorted that he had said before, as the hon. gentleman did not seem disposed to retract, he retract the offensive epithet (Mr. Blake), never! At this moment there was a tremendous disturbance in the galleries.—Several members called on the Speaker to have them cleared. Messrs. Blake and Drummond said no, no, do not clear the galleries being cleared, in order that the House should not be controlled by a mob. The Speaker ordered the galleries to be cleared. The ladies who were present vaulted into the body of the house. A fight was got up by two individuals, in which those in the immediate neighbourhood seemed very much disposed to take part. The Speaker shouted order, order, in vain; and asked several times if he should not leave the chair; but was told by Messrs. Baldwin and Viger that he must remain. In the mean time, several members and the Sergeant-at-Arms had clambered over the gallery and handed one of the combatants down, and led him through the house. Shortly after the galleries were cleared, and the House sat with closed doors for about 20 minutes, when it adjourned.

FRIDAY, FEB. 16. The House of Assembly, to-day, after some routine business, resumed the debate on the rebellion losses, which was continued till nearly 4 o'clock, when the House was cleared of strangers. The Sergeant-at-Arms then left the House, and shortly returned with the hon. member from Kingston (Mr. A. McDonald), in custody by Mr. Smith of Frontenac. Rumour ascribes the affair to a hostile message sent by Mr. McDonald to Mr. Sollicitor General Blake. The House is still sitting with closed doors.

THE WATERLOO ELECTION COMMITTEE. Mr. Watts reported the following Resolutions from the County of Waterloo Con- tending Election Committee:— Resolved—That at the last Election held for the County of Waterloo, 1409 votes were polled and recorded for James Webster, Esquire, and 1107 for Adam Johnston Ferguson, Esq., and that thereupon the said James Webster was by Adam Johnston Ferguson, Esq., the Returning Officer, proclaimed as being duly elected. 2. Resolved—That of 688 votes polled for Mr. Webster in the Townships of Holland, Holland, Normandy, Etobicoke, and Arthur, in the said County, 165 only were valid—the remaining 523 votes recorded for Mr. Webster, were invalid; the parties tending the votes thus declared invalid, having no title; this fact is in evidence, and appears on the face of the poll books. 3. Resolved—That the petitioner, Adam Johnston Ferguson, Esquire, having a majority of legal votes on the poll books at the last Election for the County of Waterloo, was duly elected. 4. Resolved—That the facts connected with the last Election for the County of Waterloo, especially the conduct of the Deputy Returning Officers for the Township of Holland, Holland, Sullivan, and Arthur, are such as demand the serious consideration of the House. 5. Resolved—That the petition of A. J. Ferguson, Esq., is not frivolous or vexatious. 6. Resolved—That the defence of James Webster, Esq., is not frivolous or vexatious. On motion of Mr. Notman, the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery attended the House, and amended the Waterloo return, by erasing the name of Mr. Webster, and inserting that of Mr. Ferguson. Mr. Ferguson then took the oath and his seat.

Several of the Deputy Returning Officers are ordered to appear at the bar of the House of Assembly, to answer for their conduct at the election. This will cause some fun to the public, if not to the parties. POLITICAL STATE OF CANADA. UPPER CANADA.—The table given below shows the political state of Canada. Twenty-three constituencies have returned Liberal members to the present Parliament.—The aggregate number of their inhabitants is 483,929. The remaining 19 constituencies have returned 19 Tory members—while their aggregate population is only 235,658. It has been often asserted that the mind of Upper Canada is almost equally divided; these figures show the very contrary. Two to one of the inhabitants have returned Liberal members. The average number represented by each member is 17,217.—The average number represented by each Reform member is 22,015—while the average number represented by each Tory member is 12,566. Eight Constituencies—Hamilton, Brockville, Kingston, London, Niagara, Brockville, Russell, and Cornwall contain a population of 40,239, and return 8 members to Parliament, while Middlesex and Waterloo have each a population larger than all the eight. LOWER CANADA.—According to the estimate of the population for 1848—each of the 42 members represents 18,293. Of these, 35 members have been returned on the Liberal and 7 on the Tory interest.—The Liberals represent a population of 693,268—and the Tory only 79,098. Total Liberal Constituencies, 483,912 Do. do. Lower Canada, 693,268 311,716 Tories, U. Canada, 235,658 Do. Lower Canada, 73,058 863,364 It is thus evident that while the members count 38 Liberal to 26 Tories, being a little more than two to one, the population which the Reform members represent is very nearly four to one over the Tories. At the head of the Constituencies stands the Canadian Middlesex (not unworthy the name) represented by Mr. Notman—with its 41,963—although Montreal is more populous, it has two members. At the foot stands Col. GUGY, the censor general of the Press, who represents the weighty Constituency of Sherbrooke, with its population of 887! It is well that Canada has a rotten constituency with nothing but a rotten borough; or what might he not have done for wrath against the Press. How grave must be his feelings when he rises, and reflects that the old Sarum of Canada he represents, is a sixteen hundred and eighty-second part of Canada—and that it would take twenty Sherbrookes to make up an average constituency in population. If Col. GUGY had a

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