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1829 TO MR. GEORGE RYERSON.

STR.

F102F

The following remarks are made on the evidence given by you before the Committee of the House of Commons, on the Civil Government of Canada, in 1828. If you think proper you can answer them : if you decline to reply, your silence must be construed into an acquiescence of their correctness. 200,000.

You assume the population to be And at page 222, of the minutes of evidence, you say that about one fifth part of that population is Methodists, or 40,000.

160,000, Which leaves for other denominations.

How you account for the whole 200,000, I shall endeavour to ascertain, from your evidence; for if you are condemned, it shall be on your own shewing-out of your own mouth.

At page 217, you say, without any qualification whatever, that "the Methodists are the most numerous"-and you are a Methodist yourself. For argument sake, take we this for granted,-it may possibly be so in fact.

You are then asked, "What denomination is next to them (the Methodists) in number ?" to which you answer-"I think the different classes of Presbyterians." Now, before I go any farther, to preserve order, I take what you term the most numerous. 40.000.

1st. The Methodists, 2d. Next, "the different classes of Presbyterians," giving you fair play, say

3d. Following this mode of interrogation, you are again asked, "What denomination do you conceive to be next to them (the Presbyterians) in number ?" you answer, "I think the Church of England, and the Baptists, are about equal in number, and next to the Presbyterians." Now if we can ascertain the number of Baptists, we shall come pretty nearly at what you would represent as being the number of the Church of England ; for you say they are about equal. Here then, there is not much of difficulty to shew what you would represent that number to be, although you do not speak it out in terms. I come at it in the following manner :-- You say, with respect to Mr. Morrison's Chart, that, "much pains was taken to ascertain the correctness of its returns."-That Chart gives the Baptists 5740 : the Church of England then, according to your account, "about equal," will give as her number,

4th. And for the Baptists, the same, . . . 5th. Then, with respect to the Catholics, you are asked-"Do you conceive them to be very numerous?" You answer generally, that, "in the Upper District there are a few Townships of French Canadians,-and in the lower part, a Township of Highland Scotch, who are Roman Catholics"-you are further asked-" Are . there many Irish Catholics ?" you answer, " there are some few in the new Townships recently inhabited." Supposing them, however, to be "next" in the order assumed in your evidence, we shall have,

giving you fair play again, 6th. For other sects and denominations, I take the following as my guide, and as I mean, Mr. Ryerson, to make you speak for yourself, I ground it upon your own words. You are then asked, "how Mr. Morrison's Chart was formed, and what means were taken to insure its correctness ?" You tell the Committee in reply, that, "much pains was taken to ascertain the correctness of the re-Jugas" that the "Secretary (of the Central Committee) wrold four and

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York?

5,740. 5.740.

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	ministers and other intelligent individuals"—and above all, that "the Chart was published in Canada, where any errors would (not would) be discovered and exposed, by those interested in the sub- ject." Take we then, that "Char.," in the compilation of which "so much pains was taken," for the remaining denominations.— It gives us—Menonists and Tunkers, "th. Wesleyan Methodists, Sth. But that it may not be said that I omit to give you credit for any other that should be included in the reckoning, let me refer you, Wr. Ryerson, to your "additional particulars," at page 222, rela- tive to the religious denominations of Upper Canada. "These are," you say, "1st Episcopalians, 2d. Presbyterians, 3d. Metho- dists, 4th. Baptists, 5th. Quakers, 6th. Menonists, 7th. Romann Catholics, and a <i>few</i> others, very inconsiderable in number." In the enumeration I have already made, I have included the whole of your 7 classes, except "Quakers"—Of these the Chart of the Cen- tral Committee says nothing—Allowing them to be your last "next" —fair play again, to swell the number for you, we shall have, after Roman Catholics,	tion, at ing with you sind reasona own evi and, tha nominat Let m paring y Commit ject, for enacted which ha And, i The F mittee of there are for and Ass there are ferent cha you every vious evice The din to say not
	count as above, for	and "wa you both a
	Will you be pleased, Mr. Ryerson, to tell us what has become of the balance of which you have lost sight of, sunk, and forgotten altogether ? Take another view of your result.	He says You say
	If to your unaccounted number of	Which Leaving
	you give us a total of	b be divid ation, It must h oncerned, om Colon 00,000- nore ama nd;" so our estima Third- mext" ance embers of anada ?"

As Agent for the "Central Committee," you say that it was your object inswer wise "to vindicate the character of *certain* religious denominations." You have ou, and you certainly "vindicated." as you are pleased to call it. a "certain" denomina- eply—"I

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88,819, han two fifths cold towards ly sunk in the mittee before ge 216) "that ve lived there te in the Disof years ?"

tion, at the expense of 88,819 of our inhabitants, whom you represent as being without any fixed religious principles, or what is perhaps as bad or worse, you sink altogether in the account. Can you suppose, Mr. Ryerson, that any reasonable man, on reading the foregoing calculation, founded as it is on your own evidence, will not say that you have been guilty of misrepresentation; and, that you have done any thing but vindicate any, except a " certain" denomination.

Let me now offer you a few observations on some of the above sects, comparing your statements made in London, with those of others made before a Committee of the House of Assembly in Upper Canada, on the same subject, for by the management of the "Central Committee" the Farce has been enacted in both places ; and by comparing them also, with other statements which have gone abroad.

And, first-I shall take the Roman Catholics :--

	The Rev. Angus McDonald, in his examination before the C
	mittee of our House of Assembly, in 1828, says that he believes
	there are
38.	Your account of them, giving you every allowance, by extending the number to its utmost possible limits that your "nexts" will ad-
	mut of-makes them about
-	The difference, and truly an amazing one, is
51.	Second—As to Presbyterians, Dr. Lee, in his report to the Gen-
	eral Assembly, from information received from the Colony, says,
	forest ale "warmly attached to the Church of Scotland," (not "dif-
	Vour classes")
00	You every allowers all, says, as I have before stated, giving
	you every anowance in the power of numbers, consistent with pre-
31	vious evidence,
00.	The difference between you and Dr. Lee, is
31.	and "warmly attached to the Church of Scotland." But, giving you both credit for speaking the turk or she of source and the second second second second second second second
	reckoning will form a curious item in the general calculation
	He says there are Presbyterians
.9,	You say there are Methodists
	40,000.
_	Which would make
9,	Leaving only
~	10,000,
U,	to be divided among all others, to make my your estimate of the non

luation, 200.000. It must be placed to the credit of the account, however, as far as you are concerned, that, while your estimate of the population is 200,000-Dr. Lee, rom Colonial information, (amazing!) tacks on another 100,000, and calls it 00,000-one half of which number, from the same source of information, more amazing !!) he states to be "warmly attached to the Church of Scotmake such a land;" so that in your estimate of Presbyterians, you differ 110,001, and in our estimate of population you differ 100,000, (most amazing !!!) Third-With respect to the Church of England : After going through your *next*" and "next," you are asked, "what proportion do you conceive the

nembers of the Church of England bears to the whole population in Upper Canada ?" you answer, "It is impossible for me to say," and for once you s your object aswer wisely. But the Committee are determined to get something out of "You have ou, and you are then asked..."Do you think they are one tenth part?" You "denomina- eply..."I do not think they are." But this, too, is considered varue, and

you are pushed into a corner by being asked-" Do you think they are a fifteenth ?" and to this you answer, " It is probable they do amount to that, or perhaps one tenth ;" and you add what the question had nothing to do with-"I should think one fifth do not belong to any religious denomination." Now, Mr. Ryerson, when you was pushed home by these questions you seem to have forgotten (or perhaps you were confused, that you said before, in your examination, page 217) that "the Church of England and Baptists are about equal in number." Now, Sir, about the Baptists, by your own shewing, there can, as you would have it believed, be no doubt, for you say (same page) that Mr. Morrison's Chart gives a "full" account of them, they (and the Methodists, as yon say,) keeping " accurate accounts" of all their societies, were able to furnish " specific information ;" if then they, and the Church of England are as you say, "about equal," it would give to the Church of England about one fortieth part of the population, for Mr. Morrison's return, as "accurate account," and "specific information," from the Baptists, gives their number in his Chart at 5,740. So that, in one place you say, it is "probable" the Church of England may amount to one fifteenth, (you add "perhaps one tenth,") or . . .

13,000. And in another place, where you say she is "about equal" with the Baptists, you make her proportion only about one fortisth, or 5,000.

Making a difference between your two statements of .

8.000. Will you pe pleased to explain which of the two you mean for the true one: but have a care that you do not get confused again.

These, Sir, are amazing differences, but I must take the liberty of pointing out a few more to you. There is no end of them; for what between thousands, and tens of thousands, and tenths, and fifteenths, and fortieths-there is a strange jumble of confusion; and you will perhaps wonder that any one should have taken the trouble to unravel it; but Cocker has always been a favourite with me .-- I know that with a little trouble, and some patience, he can put all these things to rights, and when I hear a person say that two and two make four " according to Cocker," I recognize him as a man of fact and figures. But to proceed-Let us see how you differ in your account of the Church of England from the statements made by others, before the Committee of our House of Assembly. The following table will shew this, for the correctness of which I refer you to the celebrated report of the Committee or the petition of Buckley Waters and others.

TABLE.

ANSWER to the Question-" What proportion, in your opinion, do the Members of the Church of England in this Province bear to the whole Population?" Answered by

And the second s											
	Elder Case,	The Rev. A. Stewart,	D. McCall, M. P.	E. McBride, M. P.	Rev. Mr. Barclay,	Mr. Beards- ley, M.P.	Dr.Dunlop,	F.Baby,M.P	Rev. Mr. Harris,	Rev. A. Mac Donell,	Hon. W. Dickson,
/	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	129	19	12	20	19	6	10	25	6	20	16
Mr. Brorson's Estimate	11,111	11,111	15,384	10,000	1,111	33,833	20,000	8,000	33,333	10,000	12,50
"Equal to Baptists,"	5,740	5,740	5,740	5,740	5,740	5,740	5,740	5,740	5,740	5,740	5,74
	In	m	m	m	~	m	m	m	m	m	~
Difference of statements,-	5,871	5,871	9,644	4,260	5,371	27,593	14,260	2.260	27,593	4,260	6,76

I have not room for more-but here are indeed great differences, and if th changes were rung on all the differences between differences, what an ou figure would the account make : suffice it to say, that, between yours, an the statements in the table—the highest is 27,000, and the lowest 2,000 som hall we look for the truth ?

Th now to sa have say, had g insufi shew tion,' from most error their error

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ink they are a fifamount to that. or thing to do withmination." Now. tions you seem to l before, in your Baptists are about ur own shewing, or you say (same f them, they (and of all their sociey, and the Church to the Church of Morrison's return, he Baptists, gives ou say, it is "proh, (you

al[?] with h, or 5,000.

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at between thoud fortieths—there ander that any one as always been a some patience, he say that two and a man of *fact* and ur account of the fore the Commitshew this, for the he Conmittee or

the	Church	of	England
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	Rev. Mr. Harris,	Rev. A. Mac Donell,	Hon. W. Dickson,				
	1	1	1				
-	6	20	16				
00	33,333	10,000	12,50				
40	5,740	5,740	5,74				
60	27,593	4,260	6,76				
rences, and if thes, what an od							
ween yours, an owest 2,000 som							
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The avowed object of all this investigation was to elicit truth, but who will now say that it has been attained ? I do not wish to be understood as meaning to say that either yourself, or any of the gentlemer in the foregoing table, have wilfully stated what you knew to be untrue; but this I do not hesitate to say, that you, one and all, ventured opinions upon information, which, if you had given yourselves time to reflect, you must have discovered, was totally insufficient to form so important a record. The calculations I have made shew this most clearly, and how very unsafe it is to depend upon "information," without being ourselves satisfied of its correctness, is amply proved from the case of Dr. Lee, whe, relying on such sources has fallen into the most glaring errors, or rather, has proclaimed to the world the most glaring errors, to call them by the mildest name, of persons (unknown) who, from their residence in Canada, can scarcely offer any reasonable excuse for those errors.

There are two sensible answers given to the question, which could not find a place in the table.

Mr. Rolph-"I cannot say-I have never made such a calculation"-

Mr. Robinson-"I do not know, nor do I think any body else does."

On this point, one of these gentlemen has been consistent—the other has not—which of the two I mean will be seen hereafter.

The subject, now that there has been time for reflection, must be viewed by every candid mind as having been got up for party purposes, and the Report of the Committee on the petition of Buckley Waters and others, can be looked upon in no other light, than as having been the means of incurring a heavy expense to the Province, without answering and good purpose—its contents could only go to mislead the people—to mislead the British Government, and to injure particularly the Church of England, for it is not without errors with respect to others, an instance of which I think may be found in Mr. Morrison's Chart, where the Wesleyan Methodists are reckoned at 100 only.

I might go on to point out a great many more inconsistencies in your evidence—a few of them I shall endeavour to compress into as brief limits as I can.

You are asked, (at page 217) "Did many Presbyterians sign the Petition ?"-You promptly reply "Yes," and by way of introducing an individual to the notice of the Committee, you add, "some of the principal signers are Presbyterians—the chairman of the Committee, (Central) Mr. Ketchum, is one of the leading Presbyterians in Upper Canada." There is something ridiculously ostentatious in this unnecessary addition in your reply to the stated in Mr. Morrison's Letter, that the Presbyterians refused to join the petitioners generally"-you answer, "by that part, who are members of the Church of Scotland, the petition was not generally signed."-Now, what you mean by "generally," I am at a loss clearly to understand-perhaps you can explain, and give us an abstract shewing to what particular denomination the 8000 signatures to that petition belonged-you will be able perhaps to inform us, by means of the "specific information" of the pains taking Secretary of the Central Committee, that it was "generally" signed by one denomination, and that, neither Presbyterians of "different classes," nor "members of the Church of Scotland." Make what you will of it, Mr. Morrison and yourself are here at loggerheads. But with the next question, the cat comes out of the bag—"What do you attribute that to" (the Presbyterians of the Church of Scotland not joining in the petition?)—Ah! Mr. Ryerson, now for your answer-" They want to get half of the Clergy Reserves for themselves !" Ingrate, that you must be: did not Mr. Morris, "one of the leading" members of the Church of Scotland in Upper Canada, and in the House

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of Assembly, move and vote, that they should all be sold for general purposes. This is unkind of you, Mr. Ryerson, and looks as if you were suspicious of those among whose ranks you have been fighting—But you add, (and you very often make additions not called for) "the largest proportion of Presbyterians in Upper Canada I believe signed the general petition."— Your sturdy "Yes," when first questioned on this part of the subject, after a little cross-examination, dwindled down into modest "I believe." And here again, when you speak of the "largest" proportion of Presbyteriaus, it cannot pass unnoticed how completely you are at loggerheads with Dr. Lec.— The difference between you, can only be accounted for by the supposition, that he considers all Presbyterians as members of the Church of Scotland, and that you do not consider members of the Church of Scotland as entitled to the appellation of Presbyterians—odd enough I confess.

When the crusade against the Clergy Reserves was first undertaken, how admirably you seemed to pull together, but now that time has developed the plans of each, it is pretty evident that your "friendship was but a name," and that though "generally" you are willing enough to pull down another church if you can, by any means, even by the most forced associations, you individually quarrel about the division of the spoil.

Your "object" you say was to vindicate several religious denominations. I take it, Sir, that you have misrepresented the Roman Catholics—you have confused "Presbyterians of different classes" and "members of the Church of Scotland" in such a way as to mislead and perplex, rather than vindicate —you have misrepresented the Church of England—you have misrepresented 88,819 of our population, by declaring them not attached to any religious denomination, or in almost heathenish darkness. These things will not be called vindication by any reasonable man.

Mr. Morrison's Chart, you say, was compiled with much caro-one omission which it makes is so remarkable, that I cannot forbear mentioning ithe has not given a place in it to Roman Catholics ; and with respect to them I will venture an opinion : that, as a body compared with any other singly, there is every reason to suppose, your assertions to the contrary notwithstanding, and Mr. Morrison's sinking them altogether, they are as numerous as any denomination-the Methodists not excepted. Had I been at your cloow in the Committee room when you was questioned as to this point, I would have reminded you of the thousands of Roman Catholics in the Eastern District-the many in the Midland District (Kingston, with a large stone Church, and a large and respectable congregation)-the thousands again in the new Settlements in the Newcastle District-the many in the Home District-the large and respectable congregation at York, with a neat Churchthe many in the Townships near York-and the Western District, whose population in many parts of it, is chiefly Roman Catholic ; besides the numbers scattered in different parts of the country which I have not enumerated-And yet you tell the Committee that Mr. Morrison's Chart, got up under the superintendance of the "Central Committee"-" presents a very complete and fair view of the number of ministers and of the different religious denominations in Upper Canada"-" vcry complete and fair"-let us see-of Epis-copalians it gives "no return"-Presbyterians "no return"-Kirk of Scotland "no return"-and Roman Catholics not so much as mentioned even by name as a religious denomination.

This is "very complete and fair" with a vengeance-perhaps you class the Roman Catholics, as another Mr. Ryerson has done, among the Heathen.

Again, (at page 218) speaking of the Church of England, you say in positive terms—"I know the number to be very small." I might ask you how you know this, that you take upon yourself to state it so positively. You admit (at page 220) that they may perhaps amount to one tenth—this on your own da you mu

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You s the test o essertion this time only one In the Resolve Province orrowcd ominatio esolutio ingland? ed at Ca incy you r can you eriously 1 me Mr. ked---" England nnot say And ye d made was reso se, his se he h ing mad emnly re indertaken, how is developed the is but a name," I down another issociations, you

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aro-one omismentioning itrespect to them y other singly, ry notwithstanas numerous as n at your elbow s point, I would ne Eastern Disa large stone sands again in the Homé Disneat Church-District, whose sides the numt enumeratedot up under the very complete ligious denoms see-of Epis--Kirk of Scottioned even by

the Heathen. Tou say in postask you how ely. You ad--this on your own data would give 20,000-now what your ideas of "very small" may be, you must explain.

Again you say (page 218)—" the Congregations (Church of England) are generally very small (very small again—a favourite expression it seems, but a borrowed one, as I shall show by and by) "except in the Town of York, where there are a number of Government officers." Here you make an admission, that the York congregation is large; but then, you would have the Committee believe that the reason of its being large, is, that it is made up of a " uumber of Government officers."—What is the fact ?—Take the following enumeration of the Public Offices, and contradict it if you can :—

	Electron a sec	T		-					
Government Off.ce, Ex. Councii " turveyor Gen. " teceiver General, folicitor General, Adjutant General, aspector General's Off. Legislative Council off Legislative Council off	Episcop. 2 4 5 2 1 1 2 fice, 1 ice, 2 1	Pres. 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	<i>R. Cath.</i> 1 0 0 0 0 2 0 0 0	Meth. 0 Gazette office, 1 Secretary's Office, 0 Judges, 0 Counciliors, 0 Clerk of the Peace, 0 Register, 0 Inspector, 0 Sheriff, 0	Ept	scop. 1 2 3 4 1 1 0 1	Pres. 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	R. Cath. 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0	Meth. 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
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Of these then, we have 34 Episcopalians, who attend the Church of Engand in York, and surely you do not call this "a number" in the sense which rou evidently use the term, to account for the congregation being large—if rou do, how do you account for your calling 20,000 a "very small number." The fact therefore is, that the congregation at York is large, and that the "number" of Government officers, who from your representation, if this calculation vere not made, might have passed for a host, large enough of itself to fill the church, amounts to the enormous total of 34! Oh, Mr. Ryerson, what between "very small" and "number"—calling 20,000 by the former term, and 4 by the latter, you certainly exhibit a degree of inconsistency seldom surassed; but you had an "object" in view.

In the resolutions of the House of Assembly in 1826, it is among other things "Resolved, That the number of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this "rovince is a very small, (I promised to show you that "very small," was a porrowed expression of yours) proportion to the number of other Christian deiominations."—You are asked by the committee----- "It appears that they (the lesolutions) were moved by Mr. Rolph, is he a member of the Church of Ingland?"—You answer--- "he is a member of the Church of England, educaancy you saying to yourself, is a clencher for you gentlemen. But will you, a can you, Mr. Ryerson, explain for Mr. Rolph, how it happens, that he could enough propose this Resolution as matter of fact, when not long after, this ked---" What proportion, in your opinion, do the members of the Church England bear to the whole population ?"—Mark Mr. Rolph's answer !---"I

And yet, although on this occasion Mr. Rolph admits that he "never" I made such a calculation, had nevertheless moved, that it be resolved, and vas resolved accordingly, that the proportion is "very small." In the one e, his "opinion" only is asked, and he declines giving any opinion, beuse he had "never made such a calculation;" and in the other, "never" ing made "such a calculation," he resolves it into matter of fact, to be emply recorded on the proceedings of a grave deliberative body. I promised to point out to you a gentleman who had not been consistent on this subject. I have done so.

You introduce (page 219) the Alien Question into your evidence. And have been drawn to mention Mr. Rolph's name, and am asking you for explanations on some points in which he is concerned, perhaps you can explain to me who it is that Mr. Horton, under Steeretary of the Colonies, alludes to when he says, (page 306)-" with respect to the conduct of the Colonial de partment, it is necessary to mention, that these instructions (on the Alien Ques tion) which Lord Bathurst sent out to the Colony, for the passing of a local Bill, and which excited dissatisfaction. WERE REGULATIONS WHICH HAD RE-CEIVED THE APPROBATION OF A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE, who was over in this country, more or less in the character of AN AGENT for the Prevince. with respec ' to certain grievances complained of." Rumour will have it, that "a member of the Church of England, educated at Cambridge, and I be lieve a member of Lincoln's Inn," is the person alluded to by Mr. Horton, as the "member of the Legislature" and " Agent" who approved of " Regu lations" in London, which he disapproved of elsewhere. There appears to have been some collision between the members of the Legislature and the "Agent ;" but perhaps it is hardly fair to call upon you to give explanation of the inconsistencies of others, when so many of your own have been pointed out which require to be answered. Mr. Rolph will doubtless see these remarks, and can, if he pleases, answer for himself.

1. you, Sir, are able to explain away what I have said on your evidence, or to contradict the remarks I have made upon it by any thing like proof, you have an opportunity of doing so. That evidence now stand naked and exposed to the view of every man—if you decline saying as, this, do not indulge yourself with the idea, that your silence will be construed into a dignity which will not condescend to a reply. You must stand convicted of inconsistencies the most glaring and absurd.

Dec. 1829.

B. FERGUSON, PRINCER, ... GORE BABANCE OFFICE, HAMILTON, .U. C.

been consistent on

evidence. An I sking you for exs you can explain lonies, alludes to f the Colonial de on the Alien Quesassing of a local NS WHICH HAD RE-IRE, who was over for the Prevince, will have it, that, bridge, and I be by Mr. Horton, proved cf. "Regu There appears to gislature and the give explanation n have been poinubtless see these

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CULATOR. TON, .U. C. Hile. ,bol ei o WE MYE

