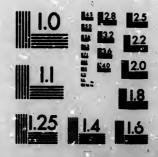
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CORRESPONDENCE

ARISING OUT OF THE PASTORAL LETTER

OF

THE RIGHT REVEREND

FRANCIS FULFORD, D. D.,

LORD BISHOP OF MONTREAL.



TORONTO:
W. C. CHEWETT & CO., 17 & 19 KING STREET EAST.
1862.

W. C. CHEWETT & CO., PRINTERS, KING STREET EAST, TORONTO.

CORRESPONDENCE

ARISING OUT OF THE PASTORAL LETTER OF THE RIGHT REV. FRANCIS FULFORD D.D., LORD BISHOP OF MONTREAL.

LETTER I.

TORONTO, 17th May, 1862.

My LORD,

You have thought fit to make a personal attack on General Evans in the letter you have addressed to your Bishops and Clergy relative to the Archdeacon of Huron.

So far as the Archdeacon is concerned he can, and doubtless will give your Lordship such a reply as will fully convince your Bishops and Clergy and the public at large of the integrity and purity of his conduct in the particular transaction in which you have introduced him as acting in concert with General Evaus.

We all understand the oclium theologicum, and in polemical discussions the community is accustomed to the spectacle of learned and Reverend personages often exceeding the boundaries which should exist between matters of a private nature, and those which affect a principle or concern the Church at large.

Although this is certainly not very edifying, yet I cannot say that your Lordship may not find a great many perhaps distinguished Clerical examples to countenance your Lordship's course in the letter referred to.

But when in endeavouring to give your Bishops and Clergy what you are pleased to call your estimate of the Archdeacon of Huron's character, you should have taken care not to have assailed that of General Evans, a private gentleman in whom your Bishops and Clergy have no peculiar interest, and upon whom they are not permitted to pass their ecclesiastical censure.

In your letter you characterize "the whole business as an attempt to take you in," and in your statement of it, it is difficult to see whether you would attach the imputation of this in any greater degree to the Archdencon of Huron than to General Evans. You treat them as joint conspirators in this attempt. If your letter were confined solely to your Bishops and Clergy, it might have been considered that although it became necessary for you to introduce the name of General Evans in connection with the transaction, yet you only intended to throw the discredit of it upon the Archdeacon, and if such were the real position of the case, it would have been quite unnecessary for me to have intruded upon your Lordship. But although your letter is addressed to your Bishops and Clergy, your Lordship has transmitted copies of it to many private gentlemen in Upper and Lower Canada, and no doubt your Lordship has circulated it in England. For five cents also I see it can be purchased at the Booksellers' shops. It has thus become a public matter, and you owe to General Evans and his family as public a retraction of your personal attack upon him, as your dissemination of it. I would believe that in the eagerness of your assault upon the Archdeacon of Huron, you did not stop to consider the reflection you were easting upon General Evans. In this view of the matter if your Lordship were to make the "amende" it would be but becoming a dignitary of the Church and a gentleman.

Should your Lordship, however, refuse so proper a request, then I would wish the public to whom you have traduced the character of General Evans to understand the facts, and by their verdict say, whether your Lordship was, or was not, justified in the reckless charge you have made. The transaction you refer to took place upwards of ten years since, and in the interval during which your Lordship has thought fit to be silent, one has been removed, who was privy to the whole of it, and whose evidence would have effectually satisfied the public how groundless are your accusations; General Evans proposed to you, to give a piece of land for half price, and under your sanction and directions to expend £3,000 in building a Church thereon, upon condition that Dr. Hellmuth should be the first incumbent, that the presentation should continue in General Evans' family, and that if there was any surplus of income over and above the current expenditure of the Church, such surplus should be applied to liquidate the advance of £3,000; but that no interest should be charged upon it. Under this propo88

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· sition the repayment of the £3,000 was as remote as the Greek Calends, and in the judgment of most people this would be considered as equivalent to a gift of £3,000. However, your Lordship throughout understood or professed to understand the whole proposition, and never during several interviews which took place upon the subject did you lead! General Evans or Dr. Hellmuth to believe that you were under any misapprehension; on the contrary, you gave two reasons for not coinciding with General Evans' views, namely, that you objected to lay patronage, and secondly, there was already sufficient Church accommodation. If your real reason was, the one you now assume, that the building of the Church would have had the collateral advantage of benefiting General Evans' property, why not have candidly stated it? Such would, in my humble judgment, have been more becoming a Clergyman and a gentleman, than your present revival of a stale matter, over which, judging from the expressions in your letter, you must have been brooding for so many, years. But after all, your Lordship has not stated any facts from which the public could draw the inference that "the attempt was made to take you in." The real facts of the transaction are opposed to their drawing such a conclusion, and they have only your Lordship's "suspicions." On mere suspicion no gentleman is at liberty to blacken the character of another, and I have yet to learn that in Canada at least, your Lordship or any other ecclesiastical dignitary enjoys any immunity in this respect. If "suspicions" are to be indulged in, we may as well take the one generally received by the public, that you objected to countenance any "Evangelical" Clergyman, as the suspicion you now, for the first time after the lapse of ten years, say really animated you.

General Evans is now in his eighty-seventh year, and has seen seventy years of service in the army. In his declining years your Lordship should have been the last, instead of the first person, ever to have attempted to tarnish his character or reputation. That was established in Canada and throughout the Empire before perhaps your Lordship was born. As the son-in-law of General Evans, in the absence of all his sons, I would be wanting in my duty, if I did not resent the charge made by your Lordship.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

ADAM CROOKS.

To the Right Reverend
THE LORD BISHOP OF MONTREAL.

LETTER II.

MONTREAL, May 21, 1862.

Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant. It is very natural and reasonable, connected as you are with General Evans, that you should be deeply interested in whatever affects him in any way; and I have no hesitation in saying, that I exceedingly regret if any thing said by me in my letter has given pain to you, or any of those connected with him.

I certainly had no intention or wish to apply the words you quote, to him, they were meant to express my opinion of Archdeacon Hellmuth's conduct in the matter; with whom nearly the whole of the negotiation was carried on. I had only one short interview with the General, when he certainly declined giving me any written statement of his proposal; and I should not have introduced his name, except as being necessary to explain the nature of the application to me.

At the same time, I beg most distinctly to deny the correctness of your version of the matter, and shall be ready at all times to maintain the facts as stated by me, as well as the course I have taken.

As to your remarks on the "odium theologicum" and "polemical" discussions," I can most truly say, it has always been my work and endeavour to live peaceably with all men; and I think you may with more propriety tender your advice to the Archdeacon, whe, by his own violent attacks on the Canadian Church and Canadian Institutions, rendered my interference necessary. And considering the very public manner in which that attack was made, I can hardly think it fair that you should complain, if my rejoinder has been made public also.

You are at full liberty to make any use of this correspondence you think right.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) F. MONTREAL.

A. CROOKS, Esq.

P. S.—You state that "One person has been removed who was privy to the whole of it, and whose evidence would have effectually satisfied the public how groundless are your accusations."

I can only say that the person you allude to was not present at any interview which I had either with General Evans or Archdeacon Hellmuth.

LETTER III.

Тогонто, Мау 27, 1862.

My Lord,—I am favored with your letter of the 21st instant, and have to thank your Lordship for the expressions of regret conveyed by it, in reply to my letter of the 14th instant.

I can see the necessity of introducing General Evans' name in connection with the recital of the transaction referred to, but your Lordship might perhaps have been more happy in the mode of doing so, and thus have avoided rendering the General liable with Archdeacon Hellmuth to the common imputation "of attempting to take you in." Any one, on reading your Lordship's letter, would say, that you intended to implicate both of them equally in this charge. I am at a loss however to understand, that there was the least necessity for introducing this episode of the Church in Sherbrooke Street, in connection with what seems to have provoked your Lordship's pastoral letter. From your remarks in that letter, as well as in the one under acknowledgment, I gather that it was "the Arch. deacon's violent attacks upon the Canadian Church and Canadian Institutions" (alluding to his recent speech at Islington) "that rendered your interference necessary." In other words, that Archdecon Hellmuth's statements of the peculiar theological teaching of Trinity College, and the paucity of and the want of encouragement to "Evangelical" Clergymen in Canada, were what required a proper admonition at the hands of your Lordship.

When the Archdeacon's reply is given to the public, we will see whether that admonition was called for, or not, and whether those statements of his were, or were not, unfounded.

With this, however, I have nothing to do, and only advert to it for the purpose of showing that with this object in view, your Lordship might have administered the desired castigation to your subordinate without weakening the force of it by reference to an old transaction of more than ten years standing, and of a private nature, and which perhaps many people may think should have been allowed to have passed into oblivion. Nor can I see the logical connection between the issue raised about Church Institutions and Evangelical Clergymen in Canada and this private matter. The Archdeacon's statements about the former may be all perfectly true and incontrovertible, and many no doubt (I confess myself of the number) are fully convinced of this. Your Lordship may or may not be quite correct in your inferences about the latter, but how the one trans-

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esent at hdeacon action happening in Montreal in the year 1852, can affect the statement of some plain facts at Islington in the year 1862, is what 1 cannot comprehend, and it was merely by way of a solution of this logical inconsistency, and not as tendering advice to any one, that I ventured upon the expressions "odium theologicum" and "polemical discussions."

Your Lordship and, I think, the public must see that your statement of the proposition of General Evans does not differ from mine, and it is only in ascribing motives (the propriety of which is questionable) to him and Dr. Hellmuth in connection with it, that there can be any charge or any difference between your Lordship and myself.

You thought or "suspected" the motive was to benefit General Evans' property and to secure his son-in-law an Incumbency. Even if this was what really actuated them in making what appears to me to have been a very liberal proposition, can it be considered a very wrong or improper motive?

But is it possible that the expenditure of £3,000 in building the Church would have enhanced the value of the residue of General Evans' property to an equal extent? And was such an incumbency an object for Dr. Hellmuth to secure, considering his then position at Sherbrooke and Lennoxville and the acknowledged character of his high attainments?

Under all the circumstances, I must confess your Lordship's judgment seems to have been hastily formed, and if I had been one of the Montreal public to have passed an opinion upon your Lordship's rejection of the offer at the time, I would have been charitable enough to have supposed that your Lordship was mistaken, but sctuated by the best of motives, and not in the least by any apprehension of the presence of an "Evangelical" Clergyman like Dr. Hellmuth in Montreal.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,
ADAM CROOKS.

To the Right Reverend
THE LORD BISHOP OF MONTREAL.

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