



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 the inhabitants, but over all other religious Teachers within their parish. The intentions of the British Government to engrave 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 Europe, the Secretary, 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 23rd 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 reply 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 tide of public opinion against the machinations of the Church and State party 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," 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 sensible that you are entitled to the greatest deference 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 which 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 sensible that you are entitled to the greatest deference 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; I would 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 public property, and the patenting 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 criminal 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 professedly reviewing 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 Province shall be promoted, 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 Croyn 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, numerously 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 its public opinion is 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. HICKES, 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 "Personal Property," as household furniture, money, goods, chattels debts due from solvent debtors, 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 the Township, &c., where he resides, where the assessment is made for all lands, &c., owned by him within such Township, &c., and in addition to the tax on the said stock, he shall be assessed in the Township, &c., where the same is situated, may be assessed in the name of the owner or occupant.

7. Defines the lands of non-residents.

8. Sets forth that any person shall be assessed for all personal property owned by him, and placed under his control as trustee, guardian, executor or administrator.

9. All incorporated companies liable to taxation shall be assessed upon their real and personal property.

10. 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.

11. Assessors may divide their locality into assessment districts, not exceeding the number of Assessors.

12. Between the 1st Feb. and 1st April, in each year, the assessor shall make inquiry as to taxable inhabitants and their property.

13. 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 tax payable by each resident male inhabitant shall be liable to road tax, hereinafter mentioned.

14. A Trustee, &c., shall be assessed for the same as the owner, in a separate line from his individual assessment, deducting the debts and the £300 previously mentioned.

15. A Trustee, &c., shall be assessed for the same as the owner, in a separate line from his individual assessment, deducting the debts and the £300 previously mentioned.

16. Provides that all real and personal property held in trust, &c., in a separate line from the assessor at its full value, as they would apprise the same in payment of a just debt due from a solvent debtor.

17. Allows a person liable to assessment, to appeal from the assessment, and review the same, and to appeal from the assessment, and review the same, and to appeal from the assessment, and review the same.

18. The assessor shall be empowered to require any party feeling himself aggrieved; and to require any party feeling himself aggrieved; and to require any party feeling himself aggrieved.

19. Affidavits to be made before one or more Justices of the Peace, or a Magistrate, or a Justice of the Peace, or a Magistrate, or a Justice of the Peace, or a Magistrate.

20. The Assessor or a majority of them shall sign the assessment roll, and certify that the same is correct.

21. Rolls certified to be delivered to the County or City Clerk, as the case may be.

22. An Assessor neglecting any of the duties required of him, to be subject to a penalty of £25.

23. 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 valuation in all the Townships, &c.

24. The Collector's roll to be made by the County or City Clerk, after the corrected and revised assessment roll.

25. The County Clerk will 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.

26. Taxes for special purposes or particular localities, to be set down in a separate column.

27. 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.

28. Township, Village or Town Clerk, to enter local taxes upon the roll.

29. If any portion of a Town or City shall be taxed for any special purpose by the Council, the Clerk shall specify on the Collector's Roll, the amounts with which each lot is chargeable.

30. The taxes under this Act to be levied equally and in proportion to the assessed value of taxable real and personal property.

31. 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-Law of the said Township Councils, &c., may direct. Indigent persons exempt.

32. Every Collector upon receiving his roll, shall proceed to collect, for that purpose, at least once upon the persons taxed.

33. Taxes if not paid within fourteen days after the first demand, to be levied by distress and sale.

34. Six days' notice of such sale to be given.

35. Surpluses to be returned to the owner unless claimed by others, &c.

36. Persons removing and neglecting to pay as assessed, shall be still liable for the amount.

37. Overplus of taxes collected to go towards reducing the taxes for the next year.

38. Collectors may receive the tax on part of a lot on certain conditions.

39. In case the Collector cannot obtain the payment of any taxes, he shall make oath to that effect, and be credited with the amount.

40. Describes the mode of proceeding against any Collector refusing or neglecting to pay over monies by him collected.

41. How and when warrant shall be executed.

42. Mode of proceeding against any Sheriff, or High Bailiff refusing or neglecting to pay over monies levied by him.

43. Every Treasurer and Chamberlain, entering upon the duties of his office, shall give security for the due performance of them.

44. Collectors to give similar security.

45. The taxation levied shall be by estimate of the amount required by each Township, &c., where the proceeds fall short of or exceed the estimate, the deficiency to be made up by the excess deducted from the taxation of the next year.

46. Rolls to be returned by the Collector, and amounts paid over before the 1st day of August each year.

47. A Collector may receive taxes upon lands of non-residents, if tendered to him within the time of his collection.

48. 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.

49. The former owner of such estate may redeem it by paying the sum for which the property was purchased from the Sheriff, with 10 per cent interest, per annum, added thereto.

50. On the receipt of such proceeds the County Treasurer to pay the over to the Township, Village, &c., claiming them.

51. A penalty of £25 to be incurred by Assessors or Collectors making unjust assessments or collections.

52. Sheriff or High Bailiff to incur a penalty of £25 for a breach of duty, directed by this Act.

53. 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.

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HURON SIGNAL.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1849.

POSITION OF PARTIES.

The history of nations is chiefly a record of the jarrings and bickerings of conflicting parties, who are entranced with the law-making department of national affairs, and whose ground of contention is not the weal or woe of the people who pay them, but a love of supremacy over each other—a thirst for personal or party aggrandizement—an ambition for power. And in looking at the political history of any given country, the most interesting feature in it, is the fact, that this power or supremacy is the certain, temporary property of both parties. They seem to possess it alternately as if by mutual contract. The government of to-day is the opposition to-morrow, and thus a perpetual wrangling is kept up at the expense of the people, who, in reality, might regard their privilege of paying as the chief interest in the struggle. All power is delegated by the people, and these alternations of parties can only take place through the consent, or at least acquiescence of the people. Hence it would be a question of difficult solution, whether the instability of the public mind or the delinquencies of the parties to whom the power is confided, should be taxed with the greater amount of these changes of the political rulers.

It would be difficult to make an accurate opinion that the mass of mankind incline to act right if they only knew the way. But this baneful ignorance—this deficiency in the art of thinking, leaves them a prey to the designing machinations of those who have an interest and a desire to impose on them. The change of a Government or a Legislature can only result from an impression on the public mind, that the existing government is acting wrong, and therefore, the secret of political tactics is to produce this impression. No sooner is a change of government effected, than the defeated party array themselves in systematic hostility to the government. Every device and stratagem are used—every art, every little mistake of half-formed proposition is seized with avidity, and exaggerated even to monstrosity, and direct falsehood, misrepresentation, and unwarrantable deflections, in those present failings and future iniquities of the ruling party are all luddled together, and presented before the people as a fearful mass of confusion, corruption, and impending desolation.

at his back like Mr. ...

SIGNAL

UARY 23, 1849.

OF PARTIES.

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amounted chiefly to the retention of office for the ...

THE QUESTION EXAMINED ON ITS OWN MERITS.

THE Tories are industriously endeavoring to make much political capital out of Mr. Lafontaine's Resolutions for examining into the nature and extent of the Rebellion of Lower Canada.

THE DISTRICT OF PEEL.

Our indefatigable friend John J. E. Linton of Stratford is now at Montreal, urging the claims of the Eastern section of Huron to be set off as a new District.

THE "CONSERVATIVE MONSTER MEETING."

We would not have referred to this free again, had it not been that we understand the Tories are boasting of a "great victory."

phatically that we have no sympathy with Mr. Lafontaine's Resolutions; that we think the introduction of them both ill-timed and injudicious.

Moved, that this meeting take this opportunity to record its opinion in condemnation of the late Administration; inasmuch as that Administration solicited the return of Louis Papineau, and further did, out of the Consolidated Revenue, pay to the said Papineau the sum of £4500, as compensation for his services as Speaker of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada, at a time when the said Papineau was in rebellion to his sovereign.

In the fourth place, we conscientiously believe that the intention in getting up the meeting was to engage the present Administration, and this we declare to be premature, and unjust, and malicious, and therefore, we express our candid sentiments, in the following amendment to the second Resolution, viz:—

Resolved, That inasmuch as the Resolutions of Mr. Lafontaine had not yet assumed a form which enables us either to approve or disapprove of them; it is the opinion of this meeting that any decision from us to the Government, or to our Representatives, on the merits of these Resolutions, would be premature and ungenerous.

In the fifth place, we believe that so long as Upper Canada and Lower Canada are united in one Province with one common Legislature, and one Treasury; a demand upon any local fund of either section of the Union, whether it be the Marriage License or the Tavern License fund, is an indirect method of taxing and shackling the energies of the entire Province, to a certain extent; and when such demand is for the exclusive benefit of a few individuals the tax is an injustice to the innocent majority.

Resolved, That this meeting sees no injustice in the proposed measure for the payment of the losses of the Upper Canada, viz: the taking a fund wholly raised in that portion of the Province to be benefited by the expenditure, and applying it to the liquidation of the claims, and to the payment of the same, whether they be for Marriage Licenses as Lower Canada.

In the last place, we beg leave to record our unqualified detestation of all attempts to impose upon the simplicity and credulity of our fellow men, and to gain a victory by the usual perversion of language, or by appeal to the passions and prejudices, such as were perpetrated by Messrs. Strachan and Stewart, Barristers, on this occasion.

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means of paying District Officers most necessarily be limited, and there is a danger that the smallness of the salaries might confine the offices to persons of inferior talent, whose qualifications and business habits were incompetent to the proper discharge of the duties; and evils of a serious nature might be the result.

The people were making preparations to organize a provincial Government. With five days three men had been hung by Lynch Law. The gold washings continue to be abundantly productive, all previous accounts are fully realized by this intelligence.—Globe.

TORONTO MARKET REPORT

February, 17th 1849.

Flour transactions this week have been larger than usual; sales have come under notice to the extent of 2,500 bbls; price paid, 20s to 20s 6d for superfine in store, according to brands.

Consols advanced considerably, and sales were made at 106 and a 1/2; a reaction, however, has since taken place, and sales have been made at a lower figure. Prices to-day are nominal. In other Stocks nothing to report. Government Debentures 5 per cent. discount. Exchange 11 1/2 premium.

DISSOLUTION OF COPARTNERSHIP.

THE Partnership heretofore existing at Goderich and Harpurby, in this District, under the name of Thomas Gilmore & Co., is this day dissolved by mutual consent.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN!!

THE Subscriber requests all those INDEBTED TO HIM BY NOTE OR BOOK ACCOUNT, to CALL AND PAY UP

PUT OUT FOR COLLECTION, his liabilities must be discharged by them.

YOUNG COEUR DE LION, in his prime, and has already obtained a celebrity that renders all further commendation unnecessary.

REMAINING IN the Post Office at Stratford up to Feb. 18th 1849.

STRAYED, ABOUT the 12th of Nov last, from the premises of JOHN LINDSAY No. 20 Huron Road, Township of Goderich, a dark brown MARE, three years old, with a white star on the forehead, and one white hind foot and a heavy mane and tail.

WANTED, 10,000 BIRDS good clean Timothy Seed, for which the Subscribers will pay a higher price in Cash, than any other buyers in the market.

TO MERCHANTS, BUCHANAN & GOLDIE, Commission Merchants, Victoria Block, King St., Hamilton 29th Dec. 1848.

PROSPECTUS OF THE CHEAPEST NEWSPAPER IN BRITISH AMERICA, CALLED THE ARTISAN.

It is now published in the City of Toronto, at one dollar per annum—invariably in advance.

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