

In the year 1818, the Lieut. Governor of that day, made proclamation that it was the pleasure of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent to release the Proprietors from the obligation of settling their grants with Foreign Protestants...

That your Majesty may enjoy a long reign, beloved in your family relations, honored by your subjects, respected by the rulers of all nations, a successor to the oppressed and a terror to the oppressors, is now and shall be the earnest prayer of Petitioners.

To THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER. Sir.—Will you please insert in the Examiner the following copy of Verses, which were presented to the Prince of Wales when in the Island, together with H. R. Highness' acknowledgments of the same, through Major General Bruce, and oblige,

The following letter, on the same subject, is also published at the request of the writer:— INFORMATION FOR THE PEOPLE ON THE LAND QUESTION.

To THE EDITOR.—Sir.—It appears from the Examiner of the 17th inst., that the Islander recommends the tenantry to appoint advocates to plead their cause before the Land Commission? Another writer, some time ago, said, there ought to be a Court of Inquiry to investigate the titles before it went to the Commission? There are many ways tried to deceive the tenantry, and these are some of them.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, 11th AUGUST, 1860. Sir.—I am commanded by the Prince of Wales to thank you for a copy of Verses which you have been good enough to write on the occasion of H. R. Highness' visit to the Colony, which he has perused with much pleasure, and to state also that he has much pleasure in giving his sanction to your including the lines in question in your forthcoming volume.

The applications which have been made to the Home Government since the year 1832, to revert the forfeited land in the Crown, have been resisted by Ministers upon the following grounds, viz: that the conditions were impracticable, and in consequence of which, the Grantees had indulged and the lands have never been forfeited; that the landlords have a right to recover rent, because the tenantry had covenanted to pay rent, and that the tenantry should derive no benefit from the forfeiture, for in consequence of such covenant they would have to pay the same rent to the Crown.

In the year 1855, when the House of Assembly was composed of eighteen members, a Committee of seven were appointed to inquire into the titles, and they reported that the conditions had not been performed, consequently the grants are forfeited. The forfeiture is not denied; but the House of Assembly are not a Court to decide on such matters, and they recommended the title to be tried in a Court of Escheat; for when a Jury, constituted to inquire into titles, find a forfeiture, the Crown becomes the proprietor, to protect every occupant in possession of his land, until arrangements for a just and equitable settlement take place.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant, R. BRUCE, Major General. John LePage, Esq. &c. &c.

It would have been unnecessary to revert to the former opinions of Ministers at this time; but the Colonial Government have brought such opinions forward, as decisions of authority, to overrule and supersede later instructions, and subvert the principle of an Act, which lately received the Royal Assent, which required an Officer of Government to investigate the titles of land, and there is no appeal from the decision of the Colonial Government, but to your Majesty; it is, therefore, necessary to show that such opinions of Ministers are not in accordance with Royal authority, and that your Petitioners desire no more than is consistent with reason, and for the honor of your Majesty to grant.

It may suit the landlords for the Islander to try and make the tenants believe that the Commission has no power to interfere with titles or the Fishery Reserves; but the people should be better informed. The case which was sent to be to the Colonial Minister, to be referred to arbitration, was accompanied with instructions. The case was fairly admitted, but the instructions were condemned; and the result was: "Whereas certain questions, arising out of the original grants of the lands of this Island, severally called the Escheat Question, the Fishery Reserve Question, and Quit Rent Question, had for many years unsettled the minds of the inhabitants, and to settle these three certain questions, the Commissioners require no advocate from the tenantry, the whole evidence is contained in the original grants, to which the Commissioners have to refer. The Colonial Minister had no objection to submit these questions to the Commission, but he objected to the instructions which imposed an arrangement to be made between proprietors and tenants, and declared that he could not recommend it to Her Majesty, to refer the case to arbitration, unless the Commission are at liberty to propose any measures which they themselves may judge desirable."

WELCOME TO THE PRINCE OF WALES. Let acclamations loud and long King o'er our hills and dales! God save the Queen, our loyal song, And bless the Prince of Wales. Where thousands press to see his face, The foremost place we claim, This be the place where we dwell, Records his Graces name. Then let us first our homage pay, As rightly we should do, We hail the brightest star to-day In Edward's arch of fame!

Grants of land are not made, but on the Petition of some person or party, and there are many unreasonable Petitioners, or on referring to the grants of this Island, where four years only are allowed to introduce and settle one-third of each grant with foreigners, and an annual Quit Rent of three shillings to six shillings per hundred acres required to defray the Colonial Civil List, it leads to a belief that, instead of the grants being rewards for services, (as has been represented in this Island,) it has more the appearance of a well merited rebuke from the Sovereign to unreasonable Petitioners, who had a desire to be Landlords over their fellow subjects; and many of them must have felt the rebuke, who never took up their grants. But when they or impostors in their stead, after many years, found the land occupied and improved by British subjects, and that they had the indulgence of Ministers, and the authority of the Colonial Government to deprive such persons of their improvements, or compel them to pay rent, then the impostors followed the example of the conspirators.

Each party have their representative in the Commission. The Crown, the proprietors and the tenants, and therefore require no advocate. But if the Commission require information, they will have authority to ask for it in a proper manner. Yet, as it is rumoured that some of the tenants had to give notes of hand for arrears of rent, or securities for the price of land, it would be right the Commission should be informed of it.

God save our Royal Queen! once more! And Albert at her side! And choicest blessings freely pour On all her royal progeny, Still may her arms victorious be On every battle-field, And, as of yore, triumphantly Her van sweep the main!

Thus the order of the King in Council, which was intended to save Great Britain from the expense of the Colonial Civil List, and to save British subjects from being imposed upon by the Grantees, was subverted by ministers given indulgence to conspirators and impostors, to enable them to claim the land and improvements of British subjects—worth at least a million of pounds sterling—while Great Britain has been taxed to defray the Colonial Civil List, about £300,000 sterling.

Now, allow me to repeat again, to warn the tenantry that the present Colonial Minister is the most powerful advocate the tenants ever had; for he would not agree to the Commission unless the arbitrators were left to their own discretion; and therefore the Governor in Council had to withdraw their proposal for making an arrangement between landlords and tenants; and the advice of the Islander for the tenantry to appoint advocates is not supported by the Minister's instructions, nor by any other authority, and could only serve to entangle the tenantry. If it were true, as I believe it is false, that the Commission is sent here to bind the tenants to the landlords, the award could be set aside as unjust; but if the tenants were to send advocates to make proposals to the Commission, whatever wrong such advocates might advise would be imputed to the tenants as of their own seeking.

Then let us sing, till echoes ring— This Prince, high degree, When Heaven sees fit to order it, Our future King may be! And may the power above confer Selectest gifts Divine Upon the House of Hanover, And Brunswick's Royal line.

But it was not from a want of spirit of malice that they did not resist their oppressors, it was from the certainty, that such actions would be misrepresented to the Sovereign, and that any outburst of indignation would demoralize the inhabitants.

The arbitrators will have their authority from the Queen in Council, and their award will have to be returned to that tribunal for the Royal Assent; and I believe it will be just and equitable if the arbitrators are left to themselves.

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Applications to Colonial Ministers, for a settlement of the Land Question, have been resisted, until the year 1851, when Earl Grey instructed Sir Alexander Bannerman to use his influence to have the question settled in an equitable manner, by Legislative enactment; and an Act was passed for the Colonial Government to buy up the land from the landlords, and sell it again to the tenants. But as such an Act could not become law, without the Royal Assent, not presented for your Majesty's confirmation, to allow of a purchase of forfeited lands for such a purpose. But to obtain your Majesty's confirmation, the following words were inserted in the Act without the intention of acting upon them, viz: "The Commissioner of Public Lands shall investigate, or cause to be investigated the titles of such lands, and shall make a report of the result of such examination and investigation to the Government."

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And for the first purchase of land under this Act, the report of the Attorney General's investigation of the Titles is in the following words, viz: "The conditions of settlement in all the Grants are the usual conditions, and being known to the Government, I have deemed it unnecessary to advert to them in the foregoing abstract; and the usual conditions for settlement in the Grants referred to, are in the following words, viz: "and the said Grantees further bind and oblige themselves, their heirs and assigns, to settle the said Lot or Township hereby granted within ten years from the date hereof, with Protestant settlers, in the proportions of one person to every two hundred acres—said Protestant settlers to be introduced from such parts of Europe as are not within His Majesty's dominions, or to be such persons as have resided within His Majesty's dominions of America two years antecedent to the date hereof; and if the said Grantees shall not settle one-third of the said Lot or Township, in the proportion aforesaid, within four years from the date hereof, then the whole of the said Lot or Township shall become forfeited to His Majesty, his heirs and successors; and this Grant shall be void and of no effect."

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It was publicly reported, and has not been denied, that the late Lieut. Governor, who was authorized to concede Responsible Government to this Colony in the year 1851, pledged his Council, before they were allowed to take office, that they would maintain the forfeited Grants, and not seek or allow the titles to be investigated; and yet the same Governor gave his assent to the Land Purchase Act, which required the titles to be investigated.

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A motion was made in the House of Assembly, that a Court of competent Jurisdiction be appointed to investigate the titles of land, according to the Act for authorizing the Government to purchase land; but the motion was lost through the same influence as above. Such are the consequences of granting indulgence to one party to deprive others of their property; and it is lamentable, that a power should exist in Great Britain over this Colony, to set Royal Ordinances aside and subvert its laws, to set men against men by corrupting the class to debate the other.

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lar he deprecated the practice adopted by some clergymen of flying the Orange flags in their churches. It is a church adjoining the court where the investigation was going on, that he soon long after the 12th of July four Orange flags flaunting in the breeze (hear, hear). Was not that a desecration of the house of God? (hear, hear). Few gentlemen in that house were aware of the length to which these things were carried in the North of Ireland. There at all times Catholics were exposed to annoyance and insult. To Hell with the Pope! being a common street cry, was often heard in the streets at all times. Very recently a Catholic gentleman was chosen a member of the county of Fermanagh. He was a man of unusual respect and esteem, but he was prevented from dining with the grand jury because the standing toast was an insult to his religion, it being the "Glorious, pious, and immortal memory." He (Mr. Cogan) would not object in England to drink the health of William III., who he considered to have introduced many reforms, but in that toast was intended as an insult to Catholics, and as such was distasteful to them (hear, hear). Sir R. Peel long ago commended the practice of observing anniversaries, which were deemed the occasions of disorder, and why did the Protestant gentlemen of Ireland to this day encourage and permit such heinous errors to continue? (hear). He would only remind the house that in 1857 Belfast was for days the scene of almost civil war, one class of citizens being arrayed in arms against the other class. Commissioners were appointed to inquire into the causes of the outbreak, and they reported that the observations of the July anniversary were the main cause of all this disorder. He would enter into the details of the recent outbreak. A riot was provoked by the insulting and irritating conduct of the Orange party. 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