
PETITION.

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RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

QUEEN VICTORIA ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.

The following is an extract from a proclamation issued to her subjects, in 1858, by Her Majesty Queen Victoria :—

“Firmly relying ourselves on the truth of Christianity, and acknowledging with gratitude the solace of religion, we disclaim alike the right and the desire to impose our convictions on any of our subjects. We declare it to be our Royal will and pleasure that none be in any wise favoured, none molested or disquieted, by reason of their religious faith or observance, but that all shall alike enjoy the equal and impartial protection of the law; and we do strictly charge and enjoin all those who may be in authority under us, that they abstain from all interference with the religious belief or worship of any of our subjects, on pain of our highest displeasure.”

PETITION FROM VICTORIA CITY, PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, citizens of British Columbia, twenty-one years of age or more, believing that religious liberty is the natural right of all men, and that in regard to religious faith and observances they should be allowed to follow the dictates of conscience, do earnestly pray your honourable body not to pass any Bill concerning Sunday, or the Lord's Day, or any other religious rite, ceremony or observance, which would interfere with the rights or religious freedom of ANY of Her Majesty's subjects.

Fred. G. Walker.

Alan S. Dumbleton.

J. A. Kenning.

F. C. Holden.

Frank C. Wolfenden.

H. B. W. Aikman.

And 1002 others.

[A similar petition from the City of Vancouver, with 570 names attached, was received.]

PETITION.

The humble petition of the undersigned residents of Chilliwack showeth that :

Whereas a Bill is to be introduced in the Provincial Legislature this Session to empower a Company to divert the water of the Vedder River from its natural course into the Luc-cuck Rivers ;

And whereas such a scheme would be ruinous to a vast tract of agricultural land in Chilliwack ;

And whereas the channel of the Luc-cuck is not of sufficient capacity to take so large a volume of water, which would wash and overflow the banks and ruin property along its course, besides it would back the water of the Chilliwack River so as to leave no drainage for the Big Prairie ;

And whereas the most productive part of the Chilliwack Settlement, lying between the Elk Creek and the Atchletch, would be injuriously affected ;

We, therefore, most emphatically protest against any Bill being passed that would interfere with the natural course of said river, and which would cause havoc and destruction to our fair country, which has been rightfully called the "Garden of British Columbia."

James Murray,

M. Sweetman,

W. B. Hall,

William Carter,

Richard Ford,

Sidney Ford,

F. C. Kickurbch,

A. F. Lindell,

James Evans,

Charles Ford,

John E. Ford,

Chas. H. Evans,

And 94 others.

VICTORIA, B. C.:

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