

that calls us, as Commissioners, into being. We are only to report the proceedings and evidence. The Legislative Assembly can take action only upon the evidence reported. There is no duty upon us, and we have, in fact, no right to give our opinion as to the guilt or innocence of any of the parties charged. These are entirely in the hands of the Legislative Assembly to decide upon according to the evidence.

The second reason applying to Meek and Kirkland only is that they are being now held for trial before the criminal courts for precisely the same offences as those charged here, and the widest publicity being given to our proceedings, any verdict of ours, though of no effect upon the tribunal for which we are taking evidence, would likely have some effect unduly favourable or unduly prejudicial to those persons upon the ultimate tribunal in those courts. The trial there should be decided strictly upon the evidence given there. Any previous decision of ours, irresponsible though it would be, would probably have some effect on the minds of the jury, and so work a detriment to the prosecution, or injustice to the accused, a responsibility that should not be lightly or unnecessarily assumed.

I think, then, we should simply report the evidence, protests, additional charges, and proceedings, and specify which of the persons charged had an opportunity of cross-examining and calling witnesses.

(Signed,)

A. F. SCOTT.

Brampton, 6th Dec., 1884.

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