

is a great difference in the cost of nearly all articles of consumption in Lower Canada, as compared with Upper Canada, and that at all times, whatever the existing rates in the latter section of the Province. On this ground alone, the enforcement of the existing Canadian regulations would not be just and proper in any part of Lower Canada, and more particularly in reference to the ministerial members of this District, who having been accustomed to a scale of allowances only just sufficient to meet their wants, and enable them to keep out of debt, could not now be expected to deny themselves of ordinary comforts, and ought not to be required to make unnecessary sacrifices for the attainment of ever so desirable an object.

It is believed by this Committee that a reference to the allowances of the Methodist ministry in Upper Canada will not be deemed intrusive and improper, since we are likely, at so very early a period, to become one with the people of that part of our country. In conversation with lay friends from Upper Canada, it is evident that an increasing and spreading conviction exists there, that the income of Methodist Ministers is far below what, in justice, it ought to be. Without expressing any opinion as to the past, it is surely inequitable to apply the same standard of payment for services rendered now, as that which prevailed in the country fifty or twenty-five years ago. In material wealth and general prosperity, Canada has advanced as much as any country, in the same time. The Methodist ministry has been, under God, a chief element, and producing cause of growth and greatness, and ought, to some extent, to share in the fruits of past continued toil and zeal. But this is impossible, even if the full allowances are made up according to the present scale. It is insufficient. It does not place the Methodist ministry on a footing of equality with an ordinary and respectable mechanic. A change is required.

This committee does not feel itself competent to decide in what way an improvement can be introduced and car-