

CANADA.

Letter from the Bishop of Quebec.

EXTRACT of a LETTER from the Bishop of Quebec to the Right. Hon.
Sir JOHN S. PAKINGTON Bart., dated Quebec, October 22, 1852.

It may be proper that I should here state what are the advantages which we do enjoy. There are three clergymen in this diocese, myself included, who still receive salaries from Government, but the salary in each case is to cease upon the first occurrence of vacancy. There is an appropriation of about 1,150*l.* currency a year from the share of the Clergy Reserves left to the Church of England, of which 300*l.* is assigned to Bishop's College at Lennoxville (an institution connected equally with both the dioceses of Lower Canada, though situated in that of Quebec), and the remainder is distributed among twenty-eight missionaries, whose meagre incomes are, with two exceptions, made up under the existing but not permanent arrangements, by the bounty of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. And there is a sum set apart for the maintenance of the future bishopric out of the Clergy Reserves Fund, which now amounts to about 13,000*l.* currency, and is advancing towards the mark at which it will yield the moderate episcopal salary which is now given in other cases in the colonies, and the surplus will then be available for other objects of the Church. The whole number of clergy holding charge in my diocese is thirty-seven. There is no part of the North American colonies, perhaps, with the exception of Newfoundland, which, with reference to the Church of England population, is so poor as the diocese of Quebec, Quebec itself being the only spot within the whole diocese in which there is anything like wealth in the hands of the members of that church; and the great majority of the missions being established in the rude and more backward settlements of the country.

Having had occasion to mention the Clergy Reserves, I take the liberty of indicating as a document which I humbly conceive correctly exhibits the whole case, in a condensed form, the petition to the Imperial Parliament from the bishop, clergy, and laity of this diocese, sent home towards the close of 1850, of which a copy was appended to a memorial addressed by myself to the Governor General* in September last, and transmitted by his Excellency to yourself. This petition was very warmly supported and numerous signed. For the convenience of reference I send herewith a printed copy of the petition from the diocese of Montreal, which, with the necessary adaptations, was adopted verbatim from that of Quebec (Appendix A.)

* See Page 8.

Enclosure.

Enclosure.

Appendix (A.)

To the QUEEN'S most Excellent MAJESTY.

The Petition of the Bishop of Montreal, and the Clergy and Congregations of the Diocese
of Montreal, in the Province of Canada.

Most humbly sheweth,

THAT in the year 1791 an Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament, 31 Geo. 3, c. 31, comprehending the appropriation of the lands called the Clergy Reserves, in the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, for the support and maintenance of a Protestant clergy, and indicating in all the following clauses the clergy of the Church of England, and no other, as the body who were to be supported and maintained.

That in the year 1793 Your Majesty's royal grandfather, of blessed memory, King George III., following up the intention of the afore-mentioned Act, erected the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada into a diocese of the Church of England, in connexion with the Archiepiscopal See of Canterbury, of which the city of Québec was made the see; and that in the letters patent appointing the bishop to the same express and formal reference is made to the aforesaid Act of appropriation of the Clergy Reserves, the two measures being manifestly designed to form parts of one and the same, the plan and the decision being practically made in accordance with what was contemplated in all the clauses of the Act, as to what Protestant clergy were, under the Act, to be endowed.