

Your memorialists are very far from being averse to see that provision made for the church of England, to which by the act of 1791 she is rightfully entitled. They are satisfied that, if judiciously appropriated, the amount might be rendered available for the religious interests of the Episcopalians in the Province. But they conceive that they have grounds of the loudest complaint in that the church of England should be permitted to assume all the authority, and enjoy all the privileges of a dominant church; while the Scottish church with equal rights from its creed, and stronger claims from its numbers, should be degraded from its co-ordinate rank as an established church, and much more should be denied a fair proportion of those means which originally had been wisely and benevolently destined by the British Legislature for the spiritual benefit of Presbyterian as well as Episcopalian inhabitants in the provinces.

Your memorialists are well aware that declarations on the part of Her Majesty's Government respecting the rights of Presbyterians in the colonies, are calculated in so far to do away the impression, of which their brethren complain, that they are regarded in no other light than that of Dissenters, and that their claims as Scotchmen and as Presbyterians, are to be considered as unfounded. Still, however, while the Memorialists are duly sensible of the vast importance of the declarations referred to, and gratefully acknowledge the justice that has in so far been done to their brethren, they must at the same time respectfully call your Lordship's attention to the fact, that, practically, no effect has yet been given in Canada to the sound principles that have been laid down respecting the rights of Presbyterians there. They have scarcely enjoyed any privileges that have not been conferred upon other protestant dissenters; and the Roman Catholics have received a larger amount of pecuniary assistance. Nor is this all, for it was after juster views seemed to be, and as your memorialists believe were maintained, that a measure more obnoxious to Presbyterians than any that had ever taken place in Canada was carried into effect, by which rectories were established throughout the province. The disapprobation expressed at the Colonial Office in regard to this ill-advised proceeding, could not fail in some degree to restore the confidence of the Presbyterians; and the explanation on the part of the present Lieutenant Governor as to the limits of the jurisdiction of the rectors, may to a certain extent allay the fears that were excited in the prospect of the new arrangement. But your memorialists are not aware that any means have been resorted to for remedying the evil; and they cannot but to a certain extent sympathize with their Presbyterian brethren in the regret that no measure of compensation has been as yet introduced to the Presbyterians, who certainly have by the proceedings in question, been subjected to great substantial injustice.

Your Memorialists would consider themselves warranted in lodging these complaints with your Lordship, though the Presbyterians formed only a small section of the population in the provinces. But their case commends itself more to the ordinary sympathies of mankind, and assumes a greater importance in a political point of view, when it is

considered that the Episcopalians constitute the smallest of the four great religious denominations in the Canadas; while the Presbyterians, at least in the Upper Province, if not the most numerous, are at least as numerous, as any of the denominations. In a country, in many parts newly settled, with many of its inhabitants, in consequence of no provision being made for their religious instruction, living in the neglect of any form of worship, it is difficult to state with accuracy, the relative numbers of different religious denominations. But your Memorialists, after much anxious inquiry, the grounds of which they are prepared to lay before your Lordship, think that they are warranted in making the above statement. Your Memorialists are also persuaded that the Presbyterians, as loyal and useful subjects and citizens, are on a level at least with any of the religious sects in Canada. The great body of the merchants—many of the most successful farmers—the best class of servants—are of the Presbyterian Church. These statements are made on the authority of respectable individuals, both the Clergy and Laity in Canada. And your Memorialists are prepared to submit to your Lordship the evidence of individuals of the highest respectability at present in this country to this effect, if required by your Lordship. It is readily conceded, that, of the learned professions, and of those who are of the greatest wealth and longest standing in the province, the majority may be Episcopalians.—But your Memorialists are convinced that your Lordship will not for a moment admit the justness or sound policy of what has yet long been practically acted upon, that the rights of one class are to be sacrificed to the learning, or wealth, or station of another, and that a more limited portion of the community. And, besides, it is among the greatest grievances of which Presbyterians in Canada complain, that while in the earlier periods of the history of the Province, many of the most respectable Scottish families were forced to become Episcopalians in consequence of no provision being made for a Presbyterian Clergy—the policy of the local government has been always so directed as to act as a bounty for Episcopacy.—The Presbyterians feel it to be intolerably vexatious and unjust, that, in the first place, the privileges to which they had an equal right should have been confined exclusively to another party, and that then the learning and wealth and power which have been thus secured to that other party, should be employed as an argument for perpetuating the injustice.

Your Memorialists have only farther to encroach upon your Lordship's time, by adverting to the strong feeling that exists among the Scottish settlers upon this subject. The Clergy Reserve question has been justly stated in a high quarter, as "the all-important question." But it is all-important, not from the number or influence of those who are opposed on the principle to all-established forms of worship, but from the feeling on the part of the Presbyterians, that the time is at last arrived when it is to be determined for ever whether their claims for justice are to be listened to by the British Government. Your Memorialists are far from denying that there is a numerous party in Canada who would be well