

DRAFT of a MESSAGE to the LEGISLATURE of *Lower Canada*.

THE Governor has received His Majesty's commands to make the following communication to the Legislative Council (the House of General Assembly) in reference to the lands which, in pursuance of the Constitutional Act of this province, have been set apart for the support and maintenance of a Protestant clergy.

The representations which have at different times been made to His Majesty and His Royal predecessors, of the prejudice sustained by His faithful subjects in this province, from the appropriation of the clergy reserves, have engaged His Majesty's most attentive consideration. His Majesty has, with no less anxiety, considered how far such an appropriation of territory is conducive either to the temporal welfare of the ministers of religion in this province, or to their spiritual influence. Bound no less by His personal feelings than by the sacred obligations of that station to which Providence has called him to watch over the interests of all the Protestant churches in His dominions, His Majesty could never consent to abandon those interests with a view to any temporary and apparent expediency.

It has therefore been, with peculiar satisfaction, that in the result of His inquiries into this subject, His Majesty has found that the changes sought for by so large a proportion of the inhabitants of this province, may be carried into effect without sacrificing the just claims of the established churches of England and Scotland. The waste lands which have been set apart as a provision for the clergy of those venerable bodies have hitherto yielded no disposable revenue. The period at which they might reasonably be expected to become more productive is still remote. His Majesty has solid grounds for entertaining the hope that before the arrival of that period, it may be found practicable to afford the clergy of those churches such a reasonable and moderate provision as may be necessary for enabling them properly to discharge their sacred functions.

His Majesty therefore invites the Legislative Council (the House of General Assembly) of Lower Canada, to consider how the powers given to the Provincial Legislature by the Constitutional Act to vary or repeal this part of its provisions, can be called into exercise most advantageously for the spiritual and temporal interests of His faithful subjects in this province.

DRAFT of a BILL to be laid before the LEGISLATURE of *Lower Canada*.

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, in the 31st year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, intituled, "An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the Fourteenth year of His Majesty's Reign, intituled, 'An Act for making more effectual Provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec in North America, and to make further Provision for the Government of the said Province,'" it was, amongst other things, enacted, that it should and might be lawful for his said late Majesty, his heirs and successors, to authorize the Governor or Lieutenant-governor of each of the said provinces respectively, or the person administering the government therein, to make from and out of the lands of the Crown within such provinces, such allotment and appropriation of lands for the support and maintenance of a Protestant clergy within the same, as may bear a due proportion to the amount of such lands within the same, as had at any time been granted by or under the authority of his said late Majesty; and that whenever any grant of lands within either of the said provinces should thereafter be made, by or under the authority of his said Majesty, his heirs or successors, there should at the same time be made in respect of the same, a proportionable allotment and appropriation of lands for the above-mentioned purposes, within the township or parish to which such lands so to be granted should appertain or be annexed to, as nearly adjacent thereto as circumstances would admit, and that no such grant should be valid or effectual unless the same should contain a specification of the land so allotted or appropriated in respect of the lands to be thereby granted; and that such lands so allotted and appropriated should be, as nearly as the circumstances and nature of the case would admit, of the like quality as the lands in respect of which the same should be so allotted and appropriated, and should be, as nearly as the same could be estimated at the time of making such grant, equal in value to the seventh part of the land so granted: And it was thereby further enacted, that all and every the rents, profits or emoluments which might at any time arise from such lands so allotted and appropriated as aforesaid, should be applicable solely to the maintenance and support of a Protestant clergy within the province in which the same should be situated, and to no other use or purpose whatever: And whereas, in pursuance of the said Statute divers tracts of land within this province have been allotted and appropriated for the support and maintenance of the Protestant clergy within the same: And whereas by certain letters patent under the great seal of this province, bearing date the day of _____ in the year _____ his said late Majesty King George the Third, did constitute (A. B. and C. D.) and their successors, to be a body corporate:

And whereas the said corporation have, in pursuance of the powers so vested in them as aforesaid, demised various parts of the said clergy reserves within this province to divers persons for terms of years by leases, in the name and under the seal of the said corporation, in which leases divers sums have been reserved and made payable as and by way of rent: And whereas, by a certain Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the 7th and 8th years of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Fourth, intituled, "An Act to authorize the Sale of a part of the Clergy Reserves in the