

PASTORAL LETTER.

DEARLY BELOVED IN THE LORD:

At the first Meeting of the Church Society under its new Constitution, on the 23rd day of October last, it was resolved, that henceforth there should be four annual collections made for the purpose of the Institution and benefit of the Church. The objects of the first three are particularly mentioned in the account of the proceedings; but the fourth is purposely left open to meet any unexpected or extraordinary contingency.

Such a contingency has unfortunately arrived much sooner than could have been anticipated, in the astonishing fact, which can no longer be concealed, that five of my Clergy, who are labouring in their several stations, are falling into the most destitute circumstances, in consequence of having been left by the Government nearly two years and a half without support from that fund which is guaranteed by the express provisions of a British Act of Parliament.

This melancholy occurrence is attributed to the discordant interpretation given by the Imperial and Colonial Governments to the 3rd and 4th Victoria, chap. 78, entitled "An Act to provide for the sale of the Clergy Reserves in the Province of Canada, and for the distribution of the proceeds thereof."

It is on all sides admitted that this Statute secures permanently, and under all circumstances, the sum of £7,700 Sterling, annually, towards the support of the Church of England in Canada West; a sum predicated on the return of Salaries and Pensions paid to the Missionaries of the Church of England in the Diocese of Toronto and their Widows for the years 1839 and 1840,—it being manifestly the desire and object of the Imperial Government to preserve the Church in the same state of efficiency as she was at the passing of the Act, and till the Clergy Reserve Fund could meet the full charge.

Nevertheless the Government of this Province, by a minute of the Executive Council bearing date the 22nd December 1842, held that although the sum of £7,700 Sterling annually is at all events secured to the Church of England, yet that