

CLERGY RESERVES IN CANADA.

CANADA.
—

Other Correspondence.

No. 1.

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COPY of a LETTER from HENRY YOUNG, Esq., to B. HAWES, Esq.

Edinburgh, 3, Moray Place,
March 10, 1851.

SIR,

I HAVE been directed by the Colonial Committee of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to transmit to you, in order that it may be laid before Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, an extract from their Minutes on the subject of the Canada Clergy Reserves, to which they have respectfully to request the attention of his Lordship.

Benjamin Hawes, Esq., M.P.,
Under Secretary of State,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. YOUNG.

Enclosure in No. 1.

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EXTRACT from the Minutes of a Meeting of the Acting Committee of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland's Committee on Colonial Churches, held at Edinburgh, the 24th day of February 1851.

The Colonial Committee of the General Assembly having had their attention called for the first time, to the recent Resolution of the Provincial Parliament of Canada in regard to the Clergy Reserves, and to the petition which the Synod of Canada has agreed to present to Her Majesty against any interference in the present arrangement of the Clergy Reserves, and having been earnestly requested by the Synod of Canada to further the views entertained by that body on this important subject, these views being in full accordance with the views entertained by this Committee, and having also had their attention directed to the communication from the Earl of Elgin to Earl Grey, dated 19th July 1850, and to the answer of Earl Grey thereto, dated the 27th of January last, both recently laid before Parliament, beg leave respectfully but firmly to express the unanimous opinion entertained by this Committee against the proposed interference with the Clergy Reserves, and with the Acts of Parliament by which these have been settled and appropriated, upon a footing which the Synod of Canada and the Church of Scotland, of which it forms a branch, and all the other parties interested therein, had reason to rely upon as a permanent settlement of the question, deliberately made, and prompted by a desire to prevent further agitation and further changes in regard to it.

The Colonial Committee have reason to know that the Church of Scotland and the Synod of Canada view the Clergy Reserve fund as of the utmost importance in securing and extending the benefits of public worship and religious instruction in Canada through the instrumentality of the churches deriving aid therefrom, and the Act 3 & 4 Victoria, chap. 78, as continuing distinctly to recognize the principle of an Establishment, and giving a clear vested interest in the Clergy Reserves to the parties therein named. The Colonial Committee, therefore, earnestly hope that Her Majesty's ministers, on a reconsideration of the subject, will see cause not to accede to the desire expressed by the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, or to recommend to Parliament that an Act should be passed giving to the Provincial Legislature full authority to make such alterations as they may think fit in the existing arrangements in regard to the Clergy Reserves, provided that existing interests are respected, but to allow matters to remain on their present footing. The Committee requested the Vice-convenor immediately to transmit an extract of this Resolution to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Extracted from the Minutes of the Acting Committee of the General Assembly's
Committee on Colonial Churches, by

H. YOUNG, Secretary.