

THE CLERGY RESERVE QUESTION.

To the Editor of The Church.

My dear Sir,—I understand that the chief objections to placing the proper portion of the Clergy Reserves in the hands of the Church Society, are—

1. *The obstruction they would offer to settlement and public improvement, from being interposed, in various parts of the country, between farms occupied by actual settlers.*

A ready answer is furnished to this objection in the very grounds of the application made by the members of the Church. They desire that these lands may be rendered as largely and as speedily available as possible to the supply of their spiritual wants; and with this prominent end in view, it is not likely they would keep them in an unproductive state, or hesitate to accept the first fair offer that might be made for their sale or lease. And supposing that according to the present system of sale, they should fall into the hands of speculators,—as in many cases they undoubtedly would,—would these last be inclined to part with them, on any patriotic grounds touching the improvement of the country, a whit sooner than a corporate body? In the latter case, indeed, independent of all individual inclination, it is easy to foresee circumstances, from persons dying intestate and their heirs being minors, in which delays would be interposed to the actual settlement of these lands much more serious than would be likely to occur if they were held by the Church Society.