

CANADA.  
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Appendix.

Clergy Reserves in the province of Canada, and for the distribution of the proceeds thereof ;” and therein it is enacted that “it is expedient to provide for the final disposition of the lands called Clergy Reserves in Canada,” and directs that the proceeds of all sales were to be divided into six equal parts, of which two were to be appropriated to the Church of England and one to the Church of Scotland, and the residue to be applied by the Governor of Canada, with the advice of the Executive Council, for the purpose of public worship and religious instruction in Canada :

That notwithstanding this arrangement was exceedingly adverse to the claims originally believed to have been existing in the Church of England, yet the members of that communion peaceably submitted to the law, receiving the Act with satisfaction, so far as it provided for the settlement of a question which had been long and painfully agitated, and accepting it, according to what they had good reason to do, as a final settlement and extinction, once for all, of all discussions and differences upon the subject ; and that to this settlement they considered, and so your Majesty’s petitioners do now consider, the faith of the Government to be pledged :

That, under all these circumstances, it has been impossible for your Majesty’s petitioners to view otherwise than with the keenest sense of injury and the deepest feelings of astonishment and alarm, a proceeding, during their late Session, of one branch of the Provincial Legislature, in which resolutions have been passed by the House of Assembly, and an address to your Majesty has been voted, to the effect that this reservation of land so often solemnly pledged and appropriated for the maintenance of religion and support of a Protestant Clergy by Acts of the Crown, and of the Imperial and Colonial Parliaments, sanctioned by the unanimous opinion of the Judges, should be alienated from its sacred purpose and applied to the promotion of education and other secular objects :

That your Majesty’s petitioners cannot but consider that such a measure, if allowed to take effect, must be calculated most seriously to shake all confidence in every species of endowment in this country, whether sanctioned by Royal charter or by the Acts of Imperial or Colonial Legislatures, and that it will be highly injurious to the cause of religion :

That there are at this time eighty-two clergymen of the Church of England officiating in the two dioceses of Quebec and Montreal, in Lower Canada :

That the Church of England population in this division of the province is believed to approach in numbers to the entire aggregate of all other Protestant denominations within that portion of the province, and that it consists at the same time, to a very great extent, of the occupiers of poor and backward settlements, who mainly depend for the ministrations of religion upon the charity of the Society in London for the Propagation of the Gospel, the revenue up to this date derived from the Clergy Reserves supplying but a very small portion of the expenditure made upon the most frugal and parsimonious scale for this object :

That whenever the assistance of the above-mentioned Society shall be withdrawn, an arrangement which steps have been taken gradually to accomplish, the revenue from the Clergy Reserves, in whatever degree it shall have been improved, will form an extremely inadequate provision, and one which need not in any quarter be grudged, for the maintenance of religion among those who can do but little for themselves ; and that your Majesty’s petitioners confide in your Majesty’s gracious protection of your loving and loyal subjects, and your concern for their religious well-being, to prevent the sanction of a measure which, in the face of another Church, enjoying the most magnificent resources through the large and generous indulgence of your Majesty’s Government, would, in human calculation, go far to crush the hopes and neutralize the efforts of a poor and laborious clergy, and to carry severe damage in all perpetuity to the spiritual interests of the people in this diocese professing the religion of the British empire.

Wherefore, your petitioners humbly pray, that your Majesty will decline to re-open this question, but leave your petitioners and other religious bodies in the enjoyment of the privileges they now possess.

And your petitioners, both from duty and inclination, will ever pray.

(Signed)

F. MONTREAL  
JOHN BETHUNE, D.D.,  
Rector of Christchurch Cathedral.  
W. AGAR ADAMSON, D.C.L.  
And 1,771 other Signatures.

Montreal, February 19, 1851.