

—No. 4.—

CANADA.

(No. 37.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor-General Sir *Edmund Head*, Bart., to the Right Honourable Lord *John Russell*.

Government House, Quebec, 26 April 1855.

(Received, 14 May 1855.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to enclose a copy of a letter addressed to me by the three bishops of Quebec, Montreal, and Toronto, expressing their hope that I would recommend to the favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government, the Resolutions already forwarded with my despatch of the 31st of March last, No. 26.

After what I have said in that despatch, it is unnecessary to add anything more.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edmund Head*.

No. 4.
Governor-Gen.
Sir E. Head, Bart.,
to Lord J. Russell.
26 April 1855.

Enclosure in No. 4.

May it please your Excellency,

Province of Canada, April 1855.

WE the undersigned, being bishops of the United Church of England and Ireland in the Province of Canada, referring to the effect of the Act for the secularization of the Clergy Reserves, and other public measures, which place that Church in Canada under the necessity of looking to her people for the maintenance and perpetuation among them, of the faith received from their fathers, desire to approach your Excellency with the expression of our full confidence that you will be ready to afford us your assistance in whatever may, in the judgment of your Excellency, tend to facilitate the attainment of those all-important objects to which we have adverted.

Encl. in No. 4.

We, therefore, earnestly hope that, since the successful working of our system is made dependent upon the local efforts of the Church and the active co-operation of the laity of her communion, your Excellency will be pleased to recommend to the favourable attention of Her Majesty's Government in England, the addresses from the two Houses, respectively, of the Provincial Parliament, based upon the resolution of the Honourable J. Hillyard Cameron, of which a copy is herewith enclosed, in so far as the said resolution relates to the removal of obstructions to the synodical action of the Church within the colony.

We have, &c.
(signed) *G. J. Quebec.*
John Toronto.
F. Montreal.

RESOLUTION.

To be moved by Honourable Mr. *Cameron*, on Thursday, the 29th of March.

To resolve,—That an humble address be presented to Her Majesty, informing Her Majesty that the Legislature of this Province, during the present Session of the Provincial Parliament, has passed an Act by which it is declared that there shall be an entire separation between Church and State in Canada, and that the Clergy Reserve funds and lands shall be appropriated to secular purposes, after providing for the salaries of existing incumbents; that the members of the United Church of England and Ireland in this Province are under disadvantages that are felt by no other denomination in the Province, inasmuch as they are unable to meet with their bishops and clergy in synod in their several dioceses, to frame rules and canons for their own guidance and governance, as large numbers of them conscientiously believe that they are under restrictions from the existence of Imperial Statutes against the holding of such synods, and inasmuch as they are hereafter required to provide for the maintenance of the bishops of their Church, while they are not allowed to have any voice in their selection or appointment, and praying that Her Majesty will be graciously pleased to cause a measure to be introduced into the Imperial Parliament during its present Session, to remove all obstructions that may exist, or be supposed to exist, under any statute now in force in Great Britain, to prevent the meeting of the bishops, clergy and laity of the United Church of England and Ireland in their several dioceses in this Province, in synod, to frame rules and canons for their own guidance and governance, and to enable them to proceed hereafter to the election of their own bishops; provided that such rules and canons are not repugnant to the laws of this Province, nor to any Act or Acts that the Legislature of Canada may hereafter pass in reference thereto.