

M.

CLERGY RESERVES (CANADA).

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 23 February 1853;—for,

“COPIES of, 1. A LETTER recently written by the Lord Bishop of *Quebec* to the Duke of *Newcastle*, on the Subject of the CLERGY RESERVES in *Canada* :”

“2. Of the Draft DESPATCH from Sir *John Pakington* to the Earl of *Elgin*, which was prepared for Transmission by the Mail of Friday, December 16th, in Reply to his Lordship's Despatch of September 22d, forwarding an Address to the Queen from the Legislative Assembly of *Canada*, on the Subject of the CLERGY RESERVES.”

Colonial Office, }
28 February 1853.]

FREDERICK PEEL.

— No. 1. —

COPY of a LETTER from the Bishop of *Quebec* to his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*.

My Lord Duke,

15, Grosvenor-street, 12 February 1853.

I AM impelled to solicit the attention of your Grace to some representations upon the subject of the Clergy Reserves in Canada, a subject for which I am less fully prepared than I could desire, because, when I left Canada, in the beginning of last month, the intelligence had not reached that country of the change in the Ministry at home, and the views of the late Ministry upon the subject in question are known to have been declared in a manner which superseded the necessity of any endeavours to avert the now threatened confiscation of church property.

In the situation to which, in the providence of God, I have been called, the guardianship of the temporal interests of the church within the limits of my jurisdiction must be considered as comprehended in the duties imposed upon me; and having been brought home by other objects of importance to the Church, I am in a manner put forward by circumstances as the representative in this country of Church interests in Canada at this crisis,—a crisis so pregnant with alarming consequences that I shall be pardoned, I trust, if I speak freely what I feel.

I have, however, in the successive attacks which have been made upon the church property in Canada, been again and again engaged in the endeavour to repel those attacks; and I may venture, perhaps, to refer your Grace to the more recent of certain representations and remonstrances submitted by myself to Her Majesty's Government, which are among the documents contained in your office. I refer in part to a letter which I addressed to your Grace's predecessor, Sir J. Pakington, on the 22d of October 1852,* in which the subject of the Clergy Reserves is incidentally touched upon, but more particularly to the copies which accompanied my letter, of two documents relating to that subject, the first being the Petition of the Bishop, Clergy, and Laity of the diocese of Quebec, transmitted for presentation to the Imperial Parliament about the end of 1850,—and the other, a Memorial which I addressed to his Excellency Lord Elgin, shortly before I had occasion to address myself to Sir John. Those two documents will be found, in my apprehension, to exhibit in a sufficiently condensed compass the main points and the real merits of the case.

No. 1.
Bishop of Quebec
to the Duke of
Newcastle.
12 February 1853.

* Page 20 of Papers
relative to “Clergy
Reserves,” presented
to Parliament by Her
Majesty's Command,
11 February 1853.