

It is probable, however, that long ere this period could arrive, many changes would take place in the Province, which would render it necessary to modify any plan that might now be formed. I have only made these calculations to show—and for this reason, I have made them very low—that, as far as we can at present discover, the scheme I propose, seems perfectly practicable.

It is, I own, that to me, some such plan would seem to possess many advantages, and not to be exposed to the objections of any party. It affords a prospect of establishing one or both of the Churches, on a firm and extended basis, an event which, I believe, would be of the greatest good to both Canada and Great Britain. It regulates the progress of both, by what each maintains or possesses—of the affections of the people. As far as they possess these, it must be allowed by all, that they ought to be supported—and if they do not possess them, the funds in question go to a purpose of the greatest acknowledged utility. It throws a great part of the burden of supporting the Ministers of religion on a fund, the revenue arising from the rent of land, on which I have endeavoured to show, it is most advantageous for the society that it should fall. By rendering the lands reserved of advantageous occupancy to many settlers, it removes, in a great measure, the chief objection to their being retained, namely, their being a bar to improvement.

An opinion, I am aware, has gone abroad, that these lands have been of the greatest detriment to the Colony, and that they ought to be sold off by government. I must observe, however, that though, as presently managed, they operate to the prejudice of the Province, the evils arising from them, have been considerably exaggerated from causes which I shall state.

1st. Having been taken possession of by a Church, whose pretensions are very unpopular, they have shared in the odium, with which her exorbitant claims are regarded.

2d. Every one remarks the much less rapid progress that we make, than our American neighbours, in improving and enriching the Country. Truth and candour would lead to the conclusion, that this must mainly arise, from our population not having yet attained that spirit of enterprise, and that knowledge of the best mode of proceeding, which so admirably fit the American, for extracting every possible good from the materials, which nature has spread over the continent. But, the vanity natural to man, throws the blame of any falling off, from his own shoulders, to those of others—and the Canadian cultivator is thus inclined, to accuse the government, as the sole cause of that short-coming, of which, at least, a great share ought to be attributed to himself. Of all the measures of government, that he can conceive to operate to his prejudice—that of reserving a seventh part of the lands unoccupied, most meets his eye, and receives, therefore, its full share of abuse.

3d. Many wish that these lands were brought to the market, as they hope to make advantageous purchases of some of them—and