

— No. 92. —

(No. 47.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Right honourable *C. Poulett Thomson* to Lord *John Russell*, dated Toronto, 13 February 1840.

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Governor Thomson  
to Lord J. Russell,  
13 February 1840.

I MUST impress upon you the necessity of distinguishing between the state of the two provinces, both with reference to the subject of tithes, and also to that of the clergy reserves.

In Lower Canada, not only does the law give the tithes, but they are paid without a murmur, and no difficulty whatever exists in their collection, according to the scale which usage has justified; but in this province, though it might perhaps be contended that by law tithes could be exacted by the Roman Catholic clergy, any attempt to enforce such a provision would utterly fail; and there is no legal support whatever practically afforded to the clergy of that denomination, which is now becoming so numerous.

Again, the disposal of the clergy reserves in Lower Canada has never produced the least excitement. The Catholic Clergy being well provided for, the Catholics have no need of any share, and have no claim to any. The distribution may be provided for either by the Imperial Parliament or by the united legislature; and in either case I would recommend that the division should be made, according to numbers, amongst the different religious denominations of Protestants. It is, however, a matter of very little moment in that province; but in Upper Canada, as I have already informed your Lordship, this question is the one all-absorbing and engrossing topic of interest, and has been for years past the principal cause of the discontent and disturbance which have arisen, and under which the province laboured.

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