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advisers, that it is with the most serious alarm that I have read the concluding portion of your despatch. Most devotedly attached as I am to the maintenance of the subsisting connexion between the mother country and the British American colonies, I cannot view without grave apprehension the prospect of collision between Her Majesty's Government and the Parliament of Canada, on a question regarding which such strong feelings prevail among the great mass of the population. Such a difficulty is the more to be regretted, because the question of the Clergy Reserves is the only one, so far as I am aware, at all likely to lead to collision. It happens, most unfortunately, that public opinion in England differs very widely from that in Canada, on questions at all partaking of a religious character; and as the people of Canada are convinced that they are better judges than any parties in England can be of what measures will best conduce to the peace and welfare of the province, Her Majesty's Government will, I trust, perceive that the danger which I apprehend is at least deserving of the most grave consideration. I cannot have the slightest doubt that the members of Her Majesty's Government are actuated by the most earnest desire to promote the best interests of Canada, and that if they could be brought to believe that I have given a faithful account of the state of public opinion there, they would be disposed to yield their own wishes for the sake of the peace of the colony. I am quite ready to acknowledge the high respectability of the petitioners against the repeal of the Clergy Reserves Act. The bishops, clergy, and an influential portion of the laity of the Church of England, the clergy and a portion of the laity of the Church of Scotland, are doubtless in favour of the present settlement, which, indeed, confers on the Church of Scotland an income wholly beyond its requirements in Canada; while the majority of the Presbyterian population neither receive any share of the endowment, nor desire to participate in it. While, however, I admit the respectability of the petitioners, I think that I am justified in affirming that they do not represent anything like a majority of the population of Canada; indeed, the very fact that they on all occasions endeavour to accomplish their wishes by appealing, not to their own representatives in Parliament, but to the Imperial Parliament, is conclusive proof that they are themselves conscious that their views are not in accordance with public opinion in Canada. I forbear from entering into the consideration of the probable action of the Canadian Legislature on the Clergy Reserves question, because I am anxious to impress on Her Majesty's Government that, although there may be wide differences of opinion among the opponents of the present arrangement as to the best mode of settling the question, a vast majority of the people are agreed as to the necessity of its being effected by provincial legislation; and I am aware that some of the best friends of the Church of England question the soundness of the policy which has influenced the promoters of the petitions lately presented to Parliament to look for support to their views in England, instead of using their legitimate influence over public opinion in Canada. I do not by any means desire to conceal from Her Majesty's Government that, saving always the rights of existing incumbents, a very strong feeling prevails, especially in Upper Canada, in favour of the secularization of the Clergy Reserves; but I ought not to omit reminding them that, although it is true that the portion of public lands known as Clergy Reserves was set apart for the religious instruction of the people at a very early period, and when there were very few inhabitants in the colony, it is likewise true that power was expressly given to the provincial legislature "to vary or repeal" the clauses in the Act 31 Geo. 3., setting apart these lands; that successive Houses of Assembly remonstrated against giving effect to them, and that so firmly were the advisers of His late Majesty King William the Fourth impressed with the necessity of getting rid of this most perplexing question, that Secretary Viscount Goderich, in a despatch dated 21st November 1831, communicated the Royal instructions that a Bill, framed in England, should be submitted to the provincial Legislature, for the purpose of getting rid entirely of the endowment. The people of Canada know well the cause of the failure in carrying out the gracious intentions of His late Majesty, as well as their own repeatedly expressed wishes. The opinions of the mass of the people have never wavered during the last twenty-five years, although circumstances have from time to time induced them to pause in their efforts, in order to concentrate public opinion on questions more deeply affecting their constitutional rights. I cannot, therefore, conceive that any action which the