

CANADA.

distracted with the subject, and a settlement of it was desirable for the public good, they acquiesced in the decision rather than continue the agitation.

That your Petitioners lament to perceive that, by an Address from the House of Assembly of this province, not concurred in by the Legislative Council, a large proportion of the members of which Assembly are Roman Catholics, an attempt is made again to open this question, and thereby renew the trouble and dissensions formerly experienced.

That this same House of Assembly has of late years granted Acts of Incorporation to numerous bodies of Roman Catholics, by which extensive privileges are conferred upon them, and which entitle them to hold fixed property to an enormous value.

That the object of the attempt now made is to take away from your Petitioners, and all other religious bodies, any participation in the fund and lands thus specially set apart, thereby depriving religion of that support which it has hitherto obtained from this source.

That the effect of this alteration would be to debar many of the scattered settlements throughout the country, where the minister's chief support is his allowance from the Reserve Fund, of the ordinances of religion, and prevent the establishment of ministers and missionaries in the remote and thinly-settled parts of the country, where the people are still without the means of grace.

Wherefore, your Petitioners humbly pray that Your Majesty will decline to re-open this question, but leave your Petitioners, and other religious bodies in the enjoyment of the privileges they now possess.

And Your Majesty's Petitioners, both from duty and inclination, will ever pray.

(Signed) JOHN COOK, D.D., Minister.

And 187 other signatures

Unto Her most Gracious Majesty Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, with all their Colonies and Dependencies, &c., &c., &c.

The Petition of the undersigned Minister, Elder, and Congregations of Saint Paul's Church, Montreal, belonging to the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connexion with the Church of Scotland,*

HUMBLY SHOWETH,—

THAT by the Act passed by the Imperial Parliament in the third and fourth years of Your Majesty's reign, cap. 78., the lands unsold, and the proceeds of those sold, which had been set apart during the reign of His late Majesty George III., of pious memory, specially for the support of a Protestant clergy, to a participation in which the Church of Scotland had been declared by the unanimous opinion of the judges and law officers of the Crown to have a right, were divided in certain proportions between various sects in this country; and this division was looked upon and accepted by all parties, as it is declared in the preamble of the Act to be, a final settlement of the question.

That though the share thus awarded to the Church to which your Petitioners belong was not as much as they considered it entitled to, yet as the country had been for some time distracted with the subject, and a settlement of it was desirable for the public good, they acquiesced in the decision rather than continue the agitation.

That your Petitioners lament to perceive that by an Address from the House of Assembly of this province, founded on a series of resolutions, one of which, involving the main principle, was carried only by a majority of two, and not sent to the Legislative Council, a large proportion of the members of which Assembly are Roman Catholics, an attempt is made again to open this question, and thereby renew the troubles and dissensions formerly experienced.

That this same House of Assembly has of late years granted Acts of Incorporation to numerous bodies of Roman Catholics, by which extensive privileges are conferred upon them, and which entitle them to hold fixed property to an enormous value.

That the object of the attempt now made is to take away from your Petitioners and all other religious bodies any participation in the fund and lands thus specially set apart, thereby depriving religion of that support which it has hitherto obtained from this source.

That the effect of this alteration would be to debar many of the scattered settlements throughout the country, where the minister's chief support is his allowance from the Reserve Fund, of the ordinances of religion, and prevent the establishment of ministers and missionaries in the remote and thinly-settled parts of the country, where the people are still without the means of grace.

Wherefore your Petitioners humbly pray that Your Majesty will decline to re-open this question, but leave your Petitioners and other religious bodies in the enjoyment of the privileges they now possess.

And your Petitioners, both from duty and inclination, will ever pray.

(Signed) ROBERT M'GILL, Minister.

And 51 other signatures.

* Similar petitions from the Minister and Congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Perth, dated March 10, 1851, with 105 signatures, and the Minister and Congregation of the First Church, Perth, dated March 10, 1851, with five signatures.