

land in this Province, contained in an article of the *Globe* of the 3rd inst.

In that article it is stated, "that each Minister of the Church of Scotland in this Province, with the one noble exception of Mr. McNaughton, filed a solemn declaration with the Government that at the passing of the Imperial Act, or on the 9th May, 1853, he had been in receipt of £150 per annum."

I am one of these Ministers, I acted as attorney for them all. As a Commissioner appointed by the Synod and residing at the Seat of Government, I was acquainted with every thing that was done in the matter of commutation, and I can positively assert that no such declaration was ever made, either verbally or in writing, by any one of the Ministers or by any one for them. The very reverse; on the occasion of the first interview I had with a member of the Government on the subject of Commutation, I stated that we had only received £112 10s in 1853; yet for reasons which I mentioned, we would be treated—in our apprehension—unfairly, if compelled to commute at that sum. And these reasons it was my business to press at every succeeding interview with members of the Government. Had I or any of us been disposed to conceal the fact, it could not have been done. It was perfectly known to the Government and was, as the *Globe* says, officially stated in the Printed Public Accounts. The charge of falsehood, or something worse, is therefore utterly without foundation.

The ground on which those, who conducted the commutation for the Ministers of the Church of Scotland, claimed that they should be permitted to commute for a larger sum than £112 10s., although that was all which was actually received in the course of 1853, was simply this, that they were entitled to more,—that according to the opinion of two former Attorneys General it was the duty of the Clergy Reserve Commissioners to distribute the revenue of each year among the Ministers of the year,—that, having no fixed salary assigned them, unvarying from year to year, they were legally entitled to their fair proportion of the year's revenue—that, in point of fact, that was what was really assigned to them,—and that,—if at any time, either through the caution of the Clergy Reserve Commissioners or in consequence of a general understanding among all parties, and for the extension of the Church, a certain portion of the year's revenue were retained—it would be a grievous hardship, to make the Ministers suffer for what, in the former case, was no fault of theirs, and, in the latter an act of liberality.

In making this claim myself, at my first and at several subsequent interviews with members of the Government, I could only state the principle of it. Not being a Clergy Reserve Commissioner, and having only the general information on the subject, I was unable to state the precise amount of the claim. The subsequent actual division of the revenues of 1853 and 1854 giving £150

to each of the Ministers on the Synod's Roll, those not entitled, under the Provincial Statute, equally with those entitled to commute, fixed the amount of the claim, which had all along been made, and enabled the Ministers to state in their printed powers of Attorney. There was not the slightest attempt to impose on the Government, as to the time when the supplementary sum was added. Our position all along was, that, whether that sum were actually added or not, our right to it and to commute accordingly was the same. The addition was, in our apprehension, valuable only as enabling us to specify the amount of a before undetermined claim.

The claim, after a correspondence with the Clergy Reserve Commissioners, was ultimately admitted by the Government. That correspondence will, no doubt, be laid before Parliament, and in it will be found an official statement of the revenue for each year, the amount appropriated each year, and the stipends received each year by the Ministers.

Only one further explanation has to be given. The *Globe* states that the revenues of the year 1853 amounted to only £7,959 19s. 3d., and consequently could not have yielded £150 to each Minister. By the revenue of 1853 the *Globe* understands the sums paid to the Clergy Reserve Commissioners from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1853. By the Revenue for the year 1853 we understand the interest of the Clergy Reserves Fund in the hands of the Government for 1853, and which—the last half-year of it, at least, could only be due on the 1st January, 1854, and was not and could not be paid into the hand of the Commissioners sooner than in the beginning of that year.—Thus understood, the revenue of 1853 was £11,250; that of 1854, over £12,000.

I am unwilling to add to these explanations any general remarks. But I cannot refrain from saying that, when the Provincial Legislature was taking away a property, worth two or three millions of pounds, from parties to whom it had been given by a solemn act of Parliament, bearing in the body of it that it was a final settlement, it was scarcely worth the while of certain parties to show so much zeal to cut down the claims, which the Imperial Parliament, had recognized and reserved to the lowest possible figure. After all, these claims do not materially diminish the amount acquired by the Province. It will not, I am persuaded, be made a charge against the members of the Government, by any reasonable man, that they were disposed to take a fair and equitable view of them. And it remains to be seen whether the purpose, to which comparatively small sums obtained in virtue of them will be permanently applied, of placing, that is, well educated Ministers of the Gospel here and there over this great Province, may not ultimately prove quite as beneficial to its interests, as any use that is likely to be made of the vastly larger amount

which is to be distributed among the Municipalities.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
JOHN COOK

Quebec, 10th January, 1856.

Ordination of the Rev. Wm. Murray.

The Presbytery of Miramichi met at Moncton, in the County of Westmorland N. B. on Wednesday, the 12th March, to receive the preliminary trials for the ordination of the Rev. William Murray, lately sent out for that place by the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland. The Presbytery being highly satisfied with the various exercises delivered before them by the Rev. Mr. Murray, and with the examinations to which he was subjected, met again on Thursday, the 13th of March, and set him apart by prayer, and the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery to the office of the holy Ministry, and to the pastoral charge of the Presbyterian congregation at Moncton. The Rev. William Henderson of Newcastle, Miramichi, preached and presided on the occasion. On Sabbath the 16th of March, the Rev. Mr. Henderson preached in the forenoon and evening, and the Rev. Mr. Murray in the afternoon, to large and attentive audiences.

Church of Scotland in South Australia.

"As regards the religious denominations of the population (amounting to nearly 90,000) these returns (taken March last) state that the Church of England numbers 34,812 persons, standing therefore the first on the list of numerical position. The next numerous is that of the Wesleyan Methodists, whose various communities include 11,178 persons. The denomination third in number is the Roman Catholic, numbering 8835 souls. The fourth is the Lutheran body, composed chiefly of German settlers, and including 6151 persons. Fifth in numerical order are the Congregationalists, numbering 5355. In this enumeration are included both Independents and Baptists. The sixth body in respect to number is the National Scotch Church, the members of that community being set down at 5264. The seventh is the Free Scotch Church, numbering 1542 members. The eighth is the Jews, of whom there are 405 in the Province. The ninth consists of smaller Presbyterian sects, amounting in number to 314 persons. The tenth is the Society of Friends, of whom there are 156; and the eleventh, Mahomedans and Pagans, of whom there are 159. Seventy-five persons are themselves of no religion at all."—*Australian and New Zealand Gazette 8th December 1855.*

The above extract may be read with some interest by the readers of the *Missionary Record*. It is inserted, however, with the