

CLERGY RESERVES.—ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY.

Mr. DRAPER said that he trusted the House would indulge him while he made a few remarks upon the reasons which had induced him to come to the conclusion at which he had arrived on the important question now before the House. He well knew the difficulties of the subject, and had had occasion to feel them as much as any man. They were questions which had already been, and doubtless might be made again, the source of the most violent agitation. He had once before had occasion

already been, and doubtless might be made again, the source of the most violent agitation. He had once before had occasion to deal with the subject in another shape, and had seen quite enough to know that his desire never to be obliged to interfere with it again. But however much he might feel this, he hoped he should never fail, if called upon, to express his opinions openly and frankly, even when they might be in opposition to the views of those whose support he was very far from proud to possess. He regretted that it had been thought necessary to bring up this question in that house. Though the remedy was not for *ever* *ever* so desirable in itself, he thought it, nevertheless,

have been better had it been applied for in another quarter yet while he said this, he did not pretend that no remedy ought to be applied—all he said was this—that if he had been asked whether he would advise that it should be brought forward there, he would have said No. He would have preferred too, that the different paragraphs of the Address should have been introduced as separate resolutions, in order that they might be considered in detail by the house. As they were brought forward, however, and as they were brought forward in their present state, he would offer a few observations on their several parts, and would then apply himself to the resolution, considered as a whole. If Mr. Alderman

Address would produce the state of things that had been so strongly deprecated by his hon. and learned friend from North York, he meant the re-opening of agitation, he should at once concur with his hon. friend, that nothing could be more injurious than its discussion. His hon. friend had spoken in strong language—but not too strong for the occasion—of the danger which might be the result of such a course; and he had ably showed how deeply sensible former Governors had been of the evils with which that unhappy agitation had affected Upper

repeated, then, that if he thought the Address did involve the re-opening of this contest, he should be prepared to give it his most strenuous opposition. He renewed that agitation would be, in his opinion, one of folly, and would be secretly and badly enough to describe. In that particular it appeared to him that the hon. member had been mistaken by some succeeding speakers. He did not understand the hon. member to say that the Church of England was seeking to re-open those old differences, but that the fact of her coming to the Legislature with the new question, might give occasion to their being re-opened. He was forcibly struck with the difference of tone with which this question was discussed that evening, from that which had too often characterised discussion on the same subject; and he must be permitted to say

him that, by settling that another could conduce to convince the whole, a satisfaction, and had tended to remove the difficulties attendant upon the subject, was the altered spirit with which it was now debated. There had been none of the personal acrimony, none of those charges of fraud and dishonest motives against opposite parties; none of that hostile, even vindictive, feeling which had on former occasions converted intimate friends into avowed and bitter enemies. He rejoiced at that, because when he had urged the settlement of the dispute in the manner which had been adopted, he had reason to know

that it was not a little difficult to carry his plans in face of the opposition which was offered in certain quarters to the measure which had resulted in effectually preventing the continuance of agitation in Upper Canada. After all that had been said about Clergy Reserve, he thought he might safely conclude, that there was a strong conviction on both sides that the religious instruction of the country ought to be provided by some more efficient means than mere voluntary contribution. It was an observation frequently made, that in questions ever so little approaching to matters of religious belief, it was scarcely possible to dis-

cess to them without something very far removed from religious feeling. It was true that in Canada, where it had long been established, the principle of the like thing, the like result, in England, was understood by the connection of the Church of England, and where, therefore, the feelings of jealousy and opposition between different parties might not have the same ground as in another country, where members of one Church were called upon to support another Church; yet the principle that advanced the support of religious instruction was so far received as to accept the most liberal and generous amongst the claimants for that support—an agitation which nothing could put a stop to but the settlement of the question on the existing basis. All this appears to lead to the reflection, that it was the positive duty of the Government to maintain any one Church as the Church of the country, and that though the Government was appointed by the Act of 1840 the distributor and manager of the funds appropriated for the support of

In accordance with a standing Regulation of the Incorporated Church Society of this Diocese, that two of the Four Collections to be made annually in the several Churches and Chapels in its behalf, shall be appropriated exclusively to a fund for the extension

of antiquity. Some scholars will always be wanted on the other side, to turn the powers of composition against them; and truth will never fail to add such a force and weight to their embellishments, that the enemy will not be able to stand against them."

9. That the sum of £50, sterling, be at the disposal of the Montreal Book and Tract Committee, towards purchasing Books and Tracts for the Depository at Montreal.

The Annual Meeting to be held on the 1st July next.

The Committee considered the general subject to involve too many interests to be decided on this Session; but they recommended that a Bill should be passed to abolish damage on inland Bills of Exchange; and that the law relating to Foreign Bills should be included in the general enactment of laws about to expire.

The House concurred in the several items of the Civil List, and a Bill was introduced thereupon.

finding purchasers than others possessed. If not, then, he could ask if there was any reason which would induce the clergy to hold them? The answer appeared to him to be two-fold.—the first arose from the interest of the parties; the second from the means of preventing an evil of that sort growing up. Now if he were rightly informed—though he confessed he spoke from newspaper reports—there was a disposition at home to withdraw from the Colonial Churches the assistance lately given to