

At the same time, it is the resolve to establish no more, for which among other reasons, the Royal assent has been given to the act of the Canadian Parliament, of last Session, entitled "an act to repeal so much of the act of the Parliament of Great Britain, passed in the 31st year of the Reign of King George III. and Chapter 31, as relates to Rectories, and the presentation of Incumbents to the same, and for other purposes connected with such Rectories." It is probable, that henceforward, the Church of England in the Colonies, will be managed under the authority of Mr. Gladstone's act, of the present Session of the Imperial Parliament, if passed, or by some similar measure.

As regards the Clergy Reserves, we have also good authority for stating, that the present Imperial Government will take no action, in reference to them, on the address of a defunct Provincial Parliament. They will be guided by the course that may be adopted, by the new Provincial Parliament, on this subject. What that course may be, we hope to witness, after August, for on the ninth of that roasting month in Canada, the collective wisdom of the Province, are doomed to assemble and wrangle together, on the rock of Quebec, when their more considerate and more fortunate confreres in Legislative labors in the mother country, will be starting with one accord to the moors, to shoot grouse on the 12th. May pleasure and profit be the result!

—No. 1.—

(No. 36.)

*Copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant-Governor Sir P. Maitland, K. C. B. to Earl Bathurst.*

Yong, Upper Canada, 17 May 1819.

My Lord,—I have the honor to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a petition from the Presbyterian inhabitants of the town of Niagara and its vicinity, praying for an annual allowance of £100 to assist in the support of a preacher.

The actual product of the Clergy Reserves is about £700 per annum. This petition involves a question on which, I perceive, there is a difference of opinion, viz. Whether the Act intends to extend the benefit of the Reserves for the maintenance of a Protestant clergy, to all denominations, or only to those of the Church of England. The law officers seem to incline to the latter opinion. I beg leave to observe to your Lordship, with much respect, that your reply to this petition will decide a question which is of much interest, and on which there is a lively feeling throughout the province.

To similar requisitions of petitioners of our own church, it has been replied, that I hoped

when the Bishop should make some satisfactory arrangement might be made.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

P. MAITLAND,

Lieutenant-Governor.

Enclosure in No. 1.

To His Excellency Sir Peregrine Maitland, K. C. B., Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, &c. &c. &c.

The Petition of the Presbyterian inhabitants of the Town of Niagara and its Vicinity, Humbly sheweth,

That previous to the late American war, they had built and erected, at a great cost and expense, a very respectable Presbyterian church in the town of Niagara, and which was the first building set fire to and burnt down by the American army; they had also a clergyman for one-half of the time, and regret to state that they are now without a preacher, although they have again erected a very decent temporary house for worship, in part of which they have allowed the district school to be taught. From the losses sustained by those of the congregation during the late war, and from several others having removed from the town, those remaining find themselves unable to pay such a sum as would be necessary to pay a preacher of respectability; and as they are truly anxious to obtain one of the Established Church of Scotland, if possible.

They, therefore, humbly pray, that your Excellency would take their peculiar case into consideration, and that you would be pleased to allow, or grant to the Presbyterian congregation of the town of Niagara, the annual sum of £100 in aid, out of the funds arising from Clergy Reserves, or any other fund at your Excellency's disposal, of which sum, together with what the congregation would obligate themselves to pay, they trust would amount to such a sum as would be competent to induce a man of abilities and respectability to come from Scotland, or such other part of Great Britain as your Excellency might approve of and be pleased to recommend.

Should your Excellency not have it in your power to grant the prayer of your petitioners, may they, in such case, humbly pray your Excellency's friendship and interest with the Government at home.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

37 Signatures.

Niagara, 30th March, 1819.

—No. 2.—

*Copy of a Despatch from Earl Bathurst to Lieutenant-Governor Sir P. Maitland, K. C. B.*

Downing-street, 6th May, 1820.

Sir,—Having requested the opinion of His Majesty's law officers as to the right of the dissenting Protestant ministers resident in Canada, to partake of the lands directed by the Act of the 31st Geo. 3, c. 31, to be reserved as a profit-