

QUEBEC, 24th February, 1855.

REVD. SIR,

I am instructed by the Commutation Committee, appointed at the last meeting of Synod, to enclose to you two Powers of Attorney, approved by the Government, and by the Synod, which it is necessary you should sign and forward to Hugh Allan, Esq., Montreal, without delay—in order to our obtaining a commutation of Clergy Reserve Money, which will be advantageous to the Church. All the Ministers present at the Meeting of Synod in January, agreed to commute—and the Ministers of the Church of England have unanimously signed similar Powers to those now forwarded to you.

The fundamental conditions contained in the Minutes of the Synod, held at Montreal, on the 11th January, 1855, which are alluded to in one of these Powers, and which by the terms of the said Minutes, it shall not be competent for the Synod at any time to alter, unless with the consent of the Ministers granting such power and authority," are First, "That the interest of the Fund shall be devoted in the first instance, to the payment of salaries of £112 10s. each," to such Ministers, "and that the next claim on the Fund shall be that of the Ministers on the Roll of the Synod, and who have been put on the Synod's Roll, since the 9th May, 1853;" and, Second, "That all persons who have a claim to such benefits, shall be Ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, and shall cease to have any claim, when they cease to be Ministers in connection with the said Church."

Of these conditions, it is presumed, you will approve, and I have the satisfaction to inform you, that on the terms proposed by the Government, and to which the Commutation Committee are prepared to agree, as soon as these Powers are received from the Ministers of the Church, it will be certainly possible to comply with the first condition, in so far as respects Ministers settled before the 9th May, 1853, and, preserving the capital, to secure to them, ~~from~~ the interest, salaries of £112 10s for life, or incumbency. And it is, therefore, earnestly entreated that there may be no hesitation or delay in signing and forwarding these Powers.

I am further instructed to call your attention to the following Resolution, passed unanimously, at the last meeting of Synod:—

"That all Ministers be, and they are hereby enjoined and entreated, (as to a measure, by which, under Providence, not only their own private interests will be secured, but a permanent endowment for the maintenance and extension of Religious Ordinances in the Church,) to grant such authority as is necessary to effect a commutation, in the fullest manner, thankful to Almighty God, that a way so easy is open to them for conferring so important a benefit on the Church."

Not doubting that you will concur in the views of the Synod.

I am,

Rev'd. Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN COOK, *Convener.*

Be sure to sign and seal, or acknowledge your seal before two witnesses, whose signatures must be appended.

Make affidavit of age also before a Magistrate. The age is to be counted from last birth-day.

J. C.

To the Reverend

*J. H. McKernan*

*Parish*