

## FORM OF PETITION IN BEHALF OF THE COLONIAL CHURCH.

1. To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal;
2. To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland; [in Parliament Assembled.]

The Petition of the undersigned Minister, Churchwardens and other Inhabitants of the Parish or Township of\* in the County of

Humbly sheweth,

That your [Lordships'] petitioners are filled with the deepest regret, that throughout Her Majesty's colonial possessions, and especially in these North American provinces, the provision for religious instruction, according to the doctrine and discipline of the United Church of England and Ireland, is totally inadequate to the wants of the inhabitants.

That such wants have been largely increased of late years by extensive emigration from Great Britain and Ireland; and that the religious destitution of the emigrants, thus removed from the spiritual advantages which they enjoyed at home, and cut off from the opportunities which were there afforded them for worshipping God after the manner of their fathers, is truly deplorable.

That the provision hitherto made for the religious instruction of the members of the Established Church in these colonies, and more especially the tracts of land in this province of Upper Canada called clergy reserves, which have been set apart, under the authority of Parliament, for the maintenance of a protestant clergy, are sought, not merely by individuals, but by Her Majesty's present Administration, to be alienated and diverted from their original destination.

That your petitioners therefore humbly pray,

That your { Lordships  
Honourable House } will be pleased to continue your protection and encouragement to the bishops and clergy throughout the British colonies, and will make provision for increasing their number to such an amount as may be required by the circumstances of the different provinces; that you[r Lordships] will devise measures for readering the clergy reserves in the Canadas, and all other lands in British America intended for the benefit of the church, available for the sacred purposes to which they were originally destined; and that you[r Lordships] will refuse to pass or sanction any law depriving the colonial church of endowments solemnly conveyed to her by grants from the Crown, or by the Parliament of Great Britain.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

*\*\* The petitions may be written on common paper.—The signatures, as in the petitions of last year, to have the residence and number of the family opposite, and the clergyman's signature testifying to their authenticity.*

(Separate.)

—No. 91.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord John Russell to the Right honourable C. Poulett Thomson.

Sir,

Downing-street, 20 March 1840.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 5th of February, enclosing a copy of an address, which has appeared in the public journals of Upper Canada, from the Bishop of Toronto to the clergy and laity of his diocese, urging them to petition against the progress of the Bill which has been passed by the legislature of the province for the final disposition of the clergy reserves.

After the full and free discussion which this question has recently undergone, and the deliberate decision which the legislature have expressed upon it, I was not prepared to expect that the Bishop of Toronto would see fit to engage in this species of agitation against the measure.

The recorded opinions of his Lordship, as to the injury to society and to the interests of religion which is likely to spring from such a system of excitement, would, as you have shown, have justified the expectation that he would have abstained from adopting it on this occasion.

It is, however, highly satisfactory to know, beyond the possibility of dispute, that so many respectable and influential members of the Church of England in the province have viewed the measure in a calmer and wiser spirit; and I earnestly trust, that if not obstructed in its passage, it will be found to realise the object for which it was framed, and on account of which it has been so strongly supported by all classes, and will remove an element of discussion which has been so long the fruitful source of irritation and discontent, and which could only be protracted at the risk of the best interests of the province.

I have, &c.

(signed)

J. Russell.

No. 90.

Governor Thomson to Lord J. Russell, 5 February 1840.

Encl. in No. 90.

\* Or as the proper designation of the petitioners may be.

No. 91.

Lord J. Russell to Governor Thomson, 20 March 1840.