

*To His Excellency the Right Hon. POULETT THOMPSON, Governor-General of the British Provinces in North America.*

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

"Sustaining, as we do, an intimate and responsible relation to the Methodist Church in this Province in connexion with the British Wesleyan Conference, we deem it imperative upon us at this important crisis to lay before your Excellency an explicit statement of our views and wishes in reference to the Clergy Reserves."

"The frankness and condescension which characterized the communications which your Excellency was pleased to make to us during the interview with which you honoured us yesterday, encourage us to believe that your Excellency will not regard the following brief expression of our opinion as unworthy of consideration, in any measure that may be recommended for the final adjustment of this question.

"We entirely concur in sentiment with your Excellency as to the propriety of maintaining, in any disposition that may be made of the reserves, a sacred and undeviating regard to the religious objects of their original donation. The Church of England being in our estimation, *the Established Church* of all the British colonies, we entertain no objection to the distinct recognition of her as such; and had the reserves been exclusively appropriated to her, according to the original intention of His Gracious Majesty George the Third, we should not have interfered with this matter; but as the disposition of them has been referred to the Colonial Legislature we confess we are entirely at a loss to conceive any just reason why the Wesleyan Methodist Church should be placed in a position in any degree inferior to the Church of Scotland.

"We would respectfully suggest, that, as she possesses no claims as an establishment in this Province, the only ostensible ground of her being recognised in any way as superior to the Wesleyan Methodist Church, must be founded in the numerical superiority of her ministry and membership,—a claim which it is matter of notoriety she cannot sustain, and therefore she has no just pretensions to such superiority.

"We would also beg leave to remind your Excellency that the Imperial government have deemed the labours of Wesleyan Missionaries of such importance as to lead them to urge the extension of their Missionary operations in this Province, and have given us the strongest assurance of their liberal and continued support.

"In any settlement of this important question that may be made, we regard it of vital importance to the permanent peace and prosperity of the Province, as a British colony, that the sum to be appropriated to us be given to the Wesleyan Methodists who are now, and who may be hereafter connected with the British Wesleyan Conference.

"We have the honour to be,

"Your Excellency's very humble and obedient servants,

"J. STINSON, *President of the Conference.*"

"M. RICHEY, *Superintendent of Toronto City.*"

"Toronto, January 3, 1840."