

CANADA.

argue a state of things in the province much to be regretted, if so highly estimable a body of persons were unable to induce a considerable number of the laity to join them in a protest against a measure which they deem to be injurious. At the same time I think it would be rash to assume that a petition of this kind is a surer test of public opinion than the vote of the popular branch of the Provincial Legislature.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c.

Encl. in No. 1.

Enclosure in No. 1.

To the Reverend the Clergy of the Archdeaconries of Kingston and York.

REV. AND DEAR BRETHREN,—

YOUR attention will before this have been called to the fact that a series of resolutions, and an Address to the Queen framed upon these resolutions, has passed the Legislative Assembly of the province, praying that the Clergy Reserves, believed to have been definitively appropriated by the Act of 3 and 4 of Vict. chap. 78., should be alienated from the purposes stated in that enactment, and applied to educational and other secular objects.

That an effort of this nature, aiming at the total abolition of all grants and endowments for religious instruction, should have succeeded in a Legislature calling itself Christian, must far and near disappoint the expectations of all seriously-minded and pious persons. The discredit and peril to our country from such a decision it is most painful to contemplate; but the features of the case become much more lamentable and repulsive when it is reflected that the measure just passed designs, with that of other religious bodies, the direct spoliation of the Church of England of the residue of her property in this province, and a flagrant breach of the faith virtually pledged to her in 3 and 4 of Vict. already referred to.

Although the high sense of honour and unbending integrity which characterize the British nation,—but which are fast losing their weight amongst ourselves in public and high places,—cannot allow us to believe that a measure so flagrantly wicked and unjust as that contemplated in the resolutions and address just passed will meet with the slightest countenance from our Gracious Queen and the Imperial Parliament, it becomes us, as a duty to the truth and majesty of religion, not less than to the interests of our own branch of the Church Catholic, to record our vigorous and decided protest against this criminal act of intended spoliation. If the Parliament of this province will sanction the infidel opinion that religion is not to be cared for, and that every existing provision for its maintenance is to be swept away, the members of the Church of England,—amongst, we will believe, thousands of others,—will stand forth in honest and bold repudiation of the reproach and the sin thus incurred.

We recommend that meetings should immediately be held in your respective parishes, and at the out-stations where you may officiate, and that petitions should be adopted to the Queen, and the Houses of Lords and Commons, in firm though respectful protest against this fresh injustice to the Church of England. Every effort should be made to procure the signature of every male adult belonging to the Church, in every quarter which can by possibility be reached; and our impression is decided, that if, in this crisis, the members of the Church will be but true to themselves, and rise and speak in the might of their righteous cause, and of their own vast stake and influence in the province, their voice would not be disregarded, but would soon drown the cry of the evil-minded and ungodly faction which aims at her destruction. The three hundred thousand Churchmen in the United Provinces should testify, by the strongest steps which can be constitutionally exerted, that they will not be robbed of their property with impunity, but that they will withstand, with a determination and persevering opposition, those machinations of an infidel principle, combined with a Romish hostility, which aim at the subversion of the existence and influence of their Church in this land. Political intrigue, and the selfishness which prompts it, may have much to do with the present movement; but there is a deeper principle of evil at the root. This is our solemn duty, as Churchmen and as Christians, to resist, and that with earnestness and vigour, and without delay.

A form of petition is subjoined as a guidance, and it would be well that the signatures obtained should be transmitted to Mr. Champion, at the Church Society's House at Toronto, by the 1st of August next at latest, that they may be forwarded to the Lord Bishop of Toronto, and reach him before he leaves England.

We remain, &c.

GEO. O'KILL STUART, D.D. and LL.D., Archdeacon of Kingston.
A. N. BETHUNE, D.D., Archdeacon of York.

July 2, 1850.