

with the constitution of the empire. Against what they conceive to be a misapplication of this fund, the memorialists, as representing an established Protestant Church, must enter their solemn protest; and express their confident hope that it will never be countenanced by the government of a Protestant Sovereign.

The memorialists must be forgiven for urging still more earnestly on your lordship's attention the case of their brethren and countrymen in Lower Canada, for whom, with the exception of a single clergyman, no public provision of any kind is made. Notwithstanding that an assurance was given by the then existing government, so far back as in 1827, "That in all cases where a suitable place of worship is erected, and a sufficient congregation assembled, the government would supply any deficiency in a moderate income for a minister, which the small means of the poor inhabitants of a newly settled district could not supply:" and that, in order to give effect in part to this undertaking, a special instruction was sent by Lord Goderich to Lord Aylmer, on the 29th December, 1830, "To apply £500 a-year, a proportion of £6850, out of the casual and territorial revenues to this purpose," still no such payment has been made; and "when application was made by the Presbytery of Quebec to Lord Gosford on the 23d of February, 1836, for payment of the said sum, an answer was received from his lordship to the effect that the instructions contained in the despatch alluded to, were set aside by subsequent arrangements made between the imperial authorities,—and this, while all the other items contained in that despatch were paid, and have been continued to the Episcopal and Roman churches."

The consequence has been, that the

clergy in the Lower Province are reduced to not only poverty, but extreme distress. A sum of £200 has been lately remitted from Scotland, from the scanty funds under the management of your memorialists, to relieve them from sufferings of the greatest severity. Some of them have already, and most of the others must, ere long, of necessity abandon the charges which they had undertaken. The people amongst whom they have laboured, with others in like circumstances, constituting a very large proportion of the inhabitants, must be left in absolute ignorance and heathenism, or abandoned to the perilous ministrations of vagrant and unqualified teachers; and all this while there exists a considerable and increasing fund, to a share in which they have a clear right, and demands on which proceeding from other quarters, and resting on claims no better founded, have been freely admitted. The memorialists feel confident that they have only to state these incontrovertible facts, in order to call forth the interference of Government, for correction of a state of things so anomalous and unjust.

They lament deeply that they have a similar statement of distress and destitution to make on behalf of their brethren in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Cape Breton, and Prince Edward's Island. The Presbyterians in those colonies are very numerous, and their number is daily increasing. They are scattered over a wide extent of country, and their clergy, about thirty in number, are unable to extend their clerical duties, except to a very limited share of those who demand their ministrations and pastoral superintendence. The support of the ministers in these provinces is derived entirely from the voluntary contributions of their people, and proves in most instances altogether in-