

interests of the Church of England in Upper Canada. Every suggestion for the protection or advancement of those interests is welcome to him.

Lord Glenelg subscribes without hesitation to many of the grounds on which the claims of the Church of England are enforced in your memorial and letter. He adopts your opinion that the provision at present made for the maintenance of the Bishop of Quebec, and the clergy of his diocese, is inadequate to the great end of maintaining the Episcopal Church where it at present exists, and of extending its operations throughout the Canadian provinces. His Lordship deprecates not less decidedly than yourself, the system which would leave the ministers of religion dependent on the precarious support of their several congregations. He is of opinion that the permanent appropriation of funds, sufficient for their decent maintenance, is to be classed amongst the first and highest objects of national policy.

It is when an advance is to be made from these general principles to the practical application of them in Upper Canada, that the real difficulty presents itself. There are only four sources from which it is possible that this demand can be satisfied. The funds might be supplied from the public revenue of Great Britain, or from the unsettled lands of the Crown in Upper Canada, or from the Clergy Reserves in the Province, or from the public revenue of the province. It is then to be considered how far each of these means is really available.

First; The motives which oppose an application to Parliament for the support of the Canadian clergy, appear to Lord Glenelg conclusive. For many years such grants were made. The disinclination to continue them was at length indicated by the House of Commons so decidedly, that the reduced grant for this service was obtained only by a distinct pledge against the revival of the demand in favour of any bishop or clergyman who should be subsequently appointed. Even if it were possible to retract that engagement, Lord Glenelg is of opinion that the House of Commons would not regard this as a legitimate use of the revenue of the United Kingdom.

Secondly; You are aware that an Act of the Upper Canadian Legislature, passed in their last Session, has placed, the disposal of the unsettled lands of the Crown, beyond Her Majesty's controul, and that the revenue hereafter to be derived from those lands will be subject to the appropriation of the local legislature, if they shall accept the terms offered to them by his late Majesty. It would be easy, but it is for the present purpose needless to show that Her Majesty's Government have not the power, even if they had the wish, to withhold from the representatives of the people in any one province of British North America the controul of every part of the unappropriated public revenue arising within such province.

Thirdly; It is maintained not only that the clergy reserves are an available resource for the purpose in view, but that they are so solemnly dedicated by Parliament to that purpose, that the diversion of them to any other involves a direct breach of the national faith. Lord Glenelg conceives that this argument could not be maintained at all, except by detaching certain parts of the Constitutional Act of 1791 from their immediate context. You have referred to those provisions of the statute under which the Reserves were set apart for the maintenance of a Protestant clergy. But it is necessary also to advert to the succeeding section, the 41st, which in terms the most distinct and unequivocal authorizes the Colonial Legislature to pass laws for the appropriation of this property. It is obvious that the Parliament of 1791 studiously guarded themselves against devoting these lands irrevocably to uses which might at some future period be distasteful to the people and legislature of the Province. It was foreseen that the question of ecclesiastical endowments might in Canada, as elsewhere, be the fruitful source of contention, and means were accordingly provided for reserving to the legislative bodies the freedom of action necessary for encountering any such difficulty, if it should arise. The result has sufficiently established the accuracy of this anticipation; and his late Majesty's Government, in the year 1831, found it impossible to adjust the controversies which had risen respecting these reserves, except by inviting the Provincial Legislature to exercise powers thus confided to them by the Constitutional Act. If the Provincial Legislature had declined this duty, had avowed their reluctance or inability to discharge it, and had called for the intervention of the Crown or of Parliament, Her Majesty's Government might have proceeded