

Majesty's Government to the original intention respecting the Reserves, would be an unpopular measure, while tithes and other endowments are secured by law to the Roman Catholic Church itself, and its Clergy are also permitted to dispose of large revenues, the legal title to which is (believed to be) in the Crown: On the contrary it could not but infuse into that body a feeling of alarm even for their unquestioned means of maintaining their Church in the country, were they to witness the unconditional alienation of the property assigned to the support of the Protestant Establishment. They would naturally regard any such measure of interference with the vested interests of one Church, as but a step towards the spoliation of the other; and I have myself seen, and can produce an expression of this very sentiment in a Canadian paper conducted in the French language, which has an extensive circulation.\*

Whatever, therefore, may be the purpose of His Majesty's Government with respect to the Clergy Reserves, I would humbly trust that in the event of their being diverted from their original object, the Church will be assured of receiving an equivalent in substitution for them; but should any project of this nature be in contemplation, I would hope that an opportunity will be afforded to the Clergy Reserve Corporations of the two Provinces, to submit to your Lordship their views of the arrangements, which in that case will be necessary. I have reason to know that as far as Lower Canada is concerned, the outline of a plan of this nature, is under the consideration of the Board, with a view to communications to be made at home.

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\* Gazette de Quebec, 16th June, 1835.