

Wednesday, 27th February, 1839.

FOURTH SESSION, THIRTEENTH PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT, 2nd VICTORIA.

servants of the same Divine Master; and I feel that, on every account, the settlement of this vitally important question ought not to be longer delayed: I therefore earnestly exhort you to consider how this desirable object may be attained—and I confidently hope, that if the claims of contending parties be advanced, as I trust they will, in a spirit of moderation and Christian charity, the adjustment of them by you will not prove insuperably difficult. But should all your efforts for the purpose unhappily fail, it will then only remain for you to re-invest these Reserves in the hands of the Crown, and to refer the appropriation of them to the Imperial Parliament, as a tribunal free from those local influences and excitements which may operate too powerfully here. My ardent desire is, that keeping in view as closely as you can, the true spirit of the object for which these lands were originally set apart, this embarrassing question may be settled on equitable principles, in a manner satisfactory to the community at large, and conducive to the diffusion of religion and true piety throughout the Province.

Second only in importance to the subject of the Clergy Reserves, is that of General Education. A system of sound and religious instruction for the rising generation, ought to be established under every Government, and is most particularly requisite in a young Country in the situation of this Province. I therefore strongly recommend to you a careful revision of the enactments relating to the Common Schools; and the early adoption of some plan calculated to secure the assistance of properly qualified teachers.

*Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

I am commanded by Her Majesty's Government, again to bring under your consideration the surrender, to your disposal, of the Casual and Territorial Revenues of the Crown; and I shall take an early opportunity to submit to you the conditions annexed to this offer, in the confident expectation, that the liberal intentions of Her Most Gracious Majesty will be duly appreciated by you, and that a satisfactory arrangement of this important subject will speedily be accomplished.

With much regret I inform you, that, in addition to the large sums disbursed by Her Majesty's Government, in the protection and defence of this Colony, the late events have also burdened the Provincial Revenue with a very considerable extraordinary expenditure, not contemplated or provided for by the Legislature.

The capture, detention, trial and punishment, of State Criminals, have been a principal source of this extraordinary outlay; and you will find, from the accounts which will be presented to you, that the sum you appropriated in the last Session to these purposes, has been greatly exceeded.

The expense of transporting convicts to Quebec and England, on the way to their ultimate destination, forms also a heavy item in the charge attending the Administration of Justice; and I fear it must be further swelled, to a large extent, in consequence of there being a number of convicts, under sentence of death, to whom the only relaxation of capital punishment, compatible with the safety of the Province, seems to be transportation to a penal Colony.

I have likewise been obliged to expend considerable sums in procuring accurate information of the designs of the conspirators in the adjacent States, as well as of their confederates within the Province: and in supporting a frequent and rapid communication with Her Majesty's Government at Home, and Her Minister at Washington.

In the confidence of your sanction being most readily given to these necessary disbursements, I have assumed the responsibility of advancing, from the Crown Revenue, the amount of the most pressing demands under these heads of Service; and a statement of those advances, together with the Public Accounts and Estimates, shall immediately be laid before you.

I have applied myself most sedulously to the examination and settlement of the numerous and pressing claims arising out of the late disturbances. Such of them as I was authorised to satisfy from the Military Chest, have been discharged, or are in a course of settlement, through Her Majesty's Commissariat; but there remain others, grounded on equitable considerations, the payment of which must necessarily depend upon your justice and liberality: and I shall accordingly direct a particular account of them to be laid before you.