

mented, when necessary, from the exchequer of Great Britain. But this connection between the Presbyterian Church and the State was at length dissolved. In 1853, an Act was passed by the British Parliament (16 Vict., cap. 21), authorizing the Legislature of the Province of Canada to dispose of the clergy reserves, and investments arising from sales thereof, but reserving to the clergy the annual stipends then enjoyed by them, and during the period of their natural lives or incumbencies. In 1855 the Legislature of Canada, in exercise of the power thus conferred, enacted that all union between Church and State should cease, and that those ministers who were admitted to office after the 9th May, 1853, being the date of the Act, 16 Vict, cap. 21, should receive no allowance from the Government. It was however, provided that rights of ministers entitled, at that date, to participate in the State subsidy, should be reserved entire, power being given to the Governor-General-in-Council to commute the annual stipend payable to each individual so entitled for the capital value of such stipend calculated at six per cent, on the probable life of the annuitant.

All the ministers interested consented to accept the statutory terms of commutation, and agreed to bring the amounts severally payable to them into one common fund, to be settled for behoof of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland. In accordance with the resolutions unanimously adopted by the Church in Synod, assembled on the 11th January, 1855, they further agreed that the interest of the fund should be devoted, in the first instance, to the payment of an annual stipend of £112 10s. to each commutor, and that the claim next in order of preference should be that of ministers then on the roll, who had been admitted since the 9th May, 1853. The arrangement thus effected was carried out by eight Commissioners duly appointed for that purpose, of whom three were ministers and five were laymen. They received payment of the commutation moneys to the amount already stated ; and in order to provide for the management of the fund thus obtained, the Legislature of the Province of Canada, upon the application of the Commissioners passed the Act, 22 Vic., Cap. 66.

By the first clause of the Act in question, the Commissioners were, along with four additional members and their successors, declared to be a body politic and corporate, by the name of the "Board for the