

## APPENDIX M.

TO THE MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

BELOVED BRETHREN:—

A few days before the recent meeting of Synod at Toronto a band of armed men from the territory of the neighbouring Republic had stealthily landed upon the western shores of our country, committing a variety of unprovoked depredations, and spreading alarm among our peaceful fellow-subjects. Simultaneous movements towards other remote points of the frontier showed this invasion to be the attempted execution of but a small part of a great criminal design, directed immediately against the rights and liberties of Canadians, but having in view the ulterior object, boldly avowed, of destroying the authority rightly and benignantly exercised over us by our beloved Sovereign, and of making this Province the basis of operations intended to sever Ireland from the British Empire. Before the members of Synod left their homes they had shared with you those mingled feelings of admiration and grief, which were universally caused by reports of the engagement at Ridgeway between our volunteers and the invaders. When they assembled at Toronto the solemn impression, produced by the obsequies which had just been performed in honour of its heroic citizens slain in our defence, was everywhere perceptible. It was a time of intense excitement throughout the country, although the feeling of security was never dislodged by the sense of danger. All minds were for a season almost wholly diverted from the purpose and the prosecution of ordinary business, and centred with virtuous indignation, yet buoyant confidence, upon the resistance of the enemy and the defeat of his vile conspiracy. On the principal routes of travel the means of conveyance were either stopped for the sake of safety, or for the most part employed in the transference of troops and ammunition. In these circumstances, the Synod, taking into consideration its own duty and your welfare, was moved to appoint the preparation of a pastoral letter to be addressed to you with the particular design of putting you in remembrance of the privileges which you enjoy, of stirring you up to a fuller appreciation and a more diligent improvement of them, and of invoking your patriotism and your religion against a hostility which, though repulsed, threatens still.

Gratitude is the first sentiment inspired by deliverance from any calamity, and of its own accord it assumes a correspondence to the exciting cause. In the present case there is much to be thankful for. The executive department of our Government, with many difficulties to contend against, with a most extensive and, at numerous points, exposed frontier to guard, has proved itself equal to the emergency, and by the promptitude and energy of its action has given reason for universal satisfaction. The conduct of the officers and men of the regular forces stationed amongst us has illustrated the hereditary devotion of the British army to the honour of the Queen and the interests of the Empire. The loyalty unmistakably manifested by all ranks and classes of the people and especially the alacrity with which our volunteers obeyed the summons to arm, placed their services at the disposal of the authorities, endured the heavy sacrifices required of them, and displayed their willingness to meet the enemy at the risk of their lives, has filled all our hearts with honest pride. It would be ungenerous to forget the effective services rendered in behalf of international peace and amity by the United States Government and the officials intrusted with the execution of its commands, so soon as there appeared to them an occasion for interference. By these means the ruthless Fenian has been driven from the soil which he attempted to desecrate, and the plans of the hateful organization to which he belongs have, in the meantime, been

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