

fabric, and which, were it to prevail, would inflict serious injury on the general well-being, not so much, perhaps, of the present generation, as on that which shall follow.

6. That, while the Ministers of this Synod have equal claim on the liberality of their people with the Ministers of other religious bodies, and while they see no reason to fear that their people will fall behind others in the support of the ordinances of religion, it is nevertheless known to this Synod that very many of our congregations are not able to provide for their Ministers a suitable maintenance, apart from the aid received out of the public fund; and this is invariably the case in new settlements, where in order to counteract the natural tendency to religious indifference, it is most desirable that a Minister should be placed from the beginning. And further, it is well known, that there are several religious denominations who have not a stated and educated Ministry, mainly, as may be presumed, not from choice, but because of their inability to maintain it; and again there are others, who, appreciating as they ought such a blessing, are constrained in their endeavours to obtain it, to beg a portion of their Minister's maintenance from foreign sources, and even with this aid, they themselves deplore the numerous hardships and privations to which their Ministers are subjected. We sympathize with such, and we would be glad to see relief extended to them from the public fund, to enable them to pursue their evangelical work free from the hindrances of poverty, and the distractions of secular care. And surely an enlightened and liberal spirit would deem it a far wiser course thus to mitigate the privations of these faithful men, than to reduce others, who may be in more auspicious circumstances, to the same unhappy level. It will not be denied that no class of educated men in the community is worse paid than the Ministers of religion, nor are there any families among the well-doing and respectable, whose prospects are less encouraging under those contingencies to which the health and life of parents are exposed. Because of this we experience the greatest difficulty in finding young men disposed to relinquish the flattering prospects of the world to enter upon that lengthened preparation required by us of all candidates for the work of the ministry. With a full knowledge of these circumstances, we are very grateful for the measure of assistance which the justice and munificence of the State have accorded "for the support and maintenance of public worship, and the propagation of religious knowledge;"—and in this our Annual Synodical Assembly, we Resolve and Declare, that the duty is laid upon us to appeal to the Legislature for protection and to exhort and admonish our people to vindicate their rights in this matter, in conformity with the principles which as a church we hold. The present Ministers of this Synod have only a very transient personal interest in the question; but it belongs to them to teach and to witness, that the church of Christ, though a spiritual body, has legal rights and temporal possessions, which she ought to defend, and, as she best may, to transmit, not only undiminished but enlarged to her perpetual posterity.

The Synod further appointed Dr. Cook, together with the Moderator and Clerk, to prepare a Pastoral Address to the People, under the superintendence of this Synod, in regard to the Clergy Reserves, and to have the same printed and circulated.

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