

## CLERGY RESERVES.

It is Resolved and Declared:—

1. That the Church of Scotland, of which this Synod is a branch, has always believed and asserted, that it is the duty of the Civil Magistrate, in every Christian land, to employ the influence of his station and office in maintaining and extending the True Faith, according to his ability, and within his own sphere; because every civil ruler, whatever be his designation and degree, is under law to Christ, as the Supreme and Sovereign Ruler of nations, and is bound to extend His Gospel, which is the surest bulwark of the order and prosperity of nations, even as it is the source of improvement and spiritual well-being to every individual believer.

2. That, having respect to the rights of conscience and the religious liberty of all classes, it is the duty of the civil ruler in every Christian land to have a solemn and enlightened concern that all acts of legislation and government be conformable to God's Word and for the glory of His Name; and, in particular, to take order that Sacred Ordinances may not only be brought within the reach of such as desire them, but that the Christian Minister may go forth with his Divine message among the careless and ignorant to persuade them to walk in the ways of True Religion, both on account of the immediate benefit accruing from it to man as a social being, and its ultimate bearings on his highest interest and immortal destiny.

3. That, for the space of nearly three centuries, the Church of Scotland, within the kingdom of Scotland, has enjoyed the protection and maintenance of the State, and by the blessing of God, though with many sins, short-comings, and trials, she has been the honoured instrument of diffusing in that land the blessings of pure Religion; and from her labours the State has received in return for its support the moral and religious improvement of the people, from which have resulted that respect for order and that enlightened submission to lawful authority which have long distinguished our countrymen.

4. That, ever since the formation of this Synod, our ecclesiastical relationship has been acknowledged by the Parent Church in every way conformable to her constitution, and our own ecclesiastical independence; and on this ground our Ministers and people have for the last thirty years asserted their right to all the benefits of a connection with her as one of the Established Churches of the British Empire. Especially we long pleaded our legal claim to a portion of the lands in Canada, set apart for the maintenance of a Protestant Clergy, on the ground of the proper legal import of that designation, and of the Treaty of Union between England and Scotland. The claim, made on this special ground, and long resisted by certain parties, was at length adjudicated in our favour by a unanimous decision of Her Majesty's Judges in England on a reference made to them by the House of Lords, and was practically acknowledged in the Imperial Statute, Vict. 3rd. & 4th., which assigned to us, as standing on the same footing in law with the Church of England, a third portion of the accumulated funds, and a certain proportion of the future proceeds of the whole, in which other Christian denominations, by the new Statute, were admitted to participate. This law we, in common with all other British subjects in Canada, received as "a final settlement" of this question, placing our respective shares beyond the reach of local rivalry and future agitations, and constituting it one of those vested rights which, agreeably to the stable and righteous mind of England, it is deemed inconsistent with the constitutional wisdom and authority of Parliament to invade or destroy. For nearly ten years we have enjoyed the benefits of this endowment. By it many of our congregations have been enabled to obtain the regular services of pastors where, without it, they might have continued long destitute of this advantage; and thereby we have been enabled to

bring into the ministerial office workmen of learning and ability, who, in the absence of this fixed public security, might have sought other fields of labour. And, further, the Synod, relying on the perpetuity and increase of this provision, has formed plans for extending the Ministry of the Church in this land to meet the wants of the numerous destitute localities in which our adherents are settled, and, in particular, by educating young men for the Ministry to meet the growing necessities of the people belonging to our communion.

5. That with a work of such magnitude before us, and with such aid permanently and legally secured to us and our successors in this Synod, we cannot refrain from expressing our deep feeling of disappointment at the injurious conduct of those who have lately stirred up agitation on this subject, for the avowed purpose of obtaining the repeal of the existing law, and by a Colonial Act to withdraw the Funds entirely from the support of Religion to secular objects. And in view of these unworthy designs the Synod declares and protests against any interference with the permanent rights determined by the Statute, as a violation of those sound and stable principles which the grandeur and security of British dominion have hitherto rested, and which interference should it unhappily prevail, will deprive coming generations of the benefits of a Fund consecrated to the education of the moral and social being in his higher and nobler faculties. This Synod is not insensible to the importance of secular education in all its degrees, and, in imitation of the Church of Scotland, we will never cease, by all means in our power, to advocate and promote it, though not by the sacrifice of the means set apart "for the support and maintenance of public worship, and the propagation of religious knowledge." We cannot forget that our higher education, as a Church of Christ, has reference to the religious and spiritual well-being of our people, and that it is our duty to employ every righteous means to frustrate any attempt that may be made to take away from us a guaranteed provision which enables us to accomplish more effectually the ends of our vocation. We shall, therefore, continue to protest against any attempt to subvert the existing law, not only on account of the detriment which would ensue to the interests of Religion, but also because it is incumbent on us to resist the encroachments of a flagitious principle, which would leave nothing secure in the social 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.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

## SYNOD OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

The Annual Meeting of the Synod of New Brunswick will be held this year at Fredericton on the first Thursday of August next. The Rev. George McDonnell, of St. Luke's Church, Bathurst, is Moderator; and according to the accustomed observance of the Church of Scotland it is his duty to open the proceedings of the Court with public worship, and preside over the deliberations of the Meeting till the election of a new Moderator. We have no doubt it would afford much satisfaction to the Members of the Synod of New Brunswick, could some of the brethren from this Province find it convenient to be present at their Meeting; and it would prove advantageous to the interests of the Church in both Provinces, should they be enabled to keep up a regular correspondence on ecclesiastical affairs, and afford assistance and advice to each other. But from the very small number of Ministers, and the multiplicity of their engagements at the present moment, it is not at all likely that any of them will be able to attend the approaching Meeting. In consequence, however, of the pleasing intercourse which has taken place on former occasions and during the past year with several members of the Synod, as well as from Christian fellowship and brotherly love, it will readily be believed that the Ministers and Members of the Church in Nova Scotia will always take a deep interest in the proceedings of the Church Courts of the Sister colony.—*Halifax Guardian.*

We are quite sure that the Ministers and Members of the Church in Canada entertain towards the Synod of New Brunswick the Christian sentiments to which expression is given in the concluding sentence of the foregoing paragraph. We may here remark that the present Moderator is very favourably known to the Christian public as author of "Heathen Converts to the Worship of the God of Israel;" and in our last issue we had pleasure in warmly recommending to the notice of our readers a recent production