

CANADA.

the maintenance of religion and the advancement of Christian knowledge within the said Province of Canada," and thereby to withdraw from religion that support which it has hitherto received from this source.

That the evils which will result from the renewed discussion of this question are many and formidable, affecting the tranquillity of the province, by exciting vehement agitation, and awakening the worst passions of rival parties, destroying all confidence in the security of rights granted by the beneficence of a pious Monarch, and guaranteed by a British Act of Parliament, and, if the proposal now made be carried into effect, depriving many of the scattered settlements throughout the province of religious ordinances altogether, and leaving the religious instruction of a great proportion of the people (the surest bulwark of a nation) to men themselves ill-educated; for whatever may be said in favour of the voluntary system of religious support, from sad experience it is here most manifest that it would be utterly inadequate to the wants and circumstances of the country.

Wherefore your Memorialists, firmly persuaded of the magnitude of the evils to be apprehended, feel that they are no less bound by the claims of loyalty and citizenship than of fidelity in the administration of the trust reposed in them as Commissioners; to crave that Your most Gracious Majesty will decline to re-open this question, and leave the various religious bodies in possession of the advantages they now enjoy accruing from the Clergy Reserves Fund, which, extending as they do to all religious denominations, can give no reasonable cause of offence to any.

And your Memorialists will ever pray.

Signed in presence, in the name and by authority of the Board of Commissioners, by me,

ALEX. MATHIESON, D.D., Chairman.
HUGH ALLEN, Secretary.

Unto Her most Gracious Majesty Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, with all their Colonies and Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

The Petition "of the Lay Association in support of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connexion with the Church of Scotland,"

HUMBLY SHOWETH,

THAT your Petitioners are associated together with the view of extending assistance to poor congregations, educating young men for the ministry, and disseminating useful and instructive information respecting the Church of Scotland and the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connexion therewith.

That your Petitioners, attached by conviction and choice to the communion of the Church of Scotland, and feeling the warmest interest in its prosperity, have observed with regret that an attempt to re-open the settlement of the lands set apart for the support of "a Protestant clergy" is made by an Address of the Legislative Assembly of this province, based upon resolutions the principle of which was carried by a narrow majority in a House a large proportion of the members of which are Roman Catholics, and which has of late years granted with almost entire unanimity Acts of Incorporation to various sections of the Romish Church, enabling it to hold property to an enormous value.

That from the terms, "It is expedient to provide for the final disposition of the lands called Clergy Reserves in Canada," in the preamble of the Act 3 & 4 Viet. cap. 78., your Petitioners regarded the provisions therein contained as a final settlement of the question, and they have every reason to believe that they were received as such by Your Majesty's subjects generally in the province of Canada.

That though the share awarded in terms of the said Act to the Church of Scotland was not so much as the members of that Church considered it entitled to receive in its then condition, yet as the country had been long distracted with the subject, and a settlement of it was desirable for the public good, they acquiesced in the decision, rather than that the agitation should be prolonged, to the manifest injury of the peace and prosperity of the colony.

That the object of the attempt now made is to dispossess the Church of Scotland and other religious bodies of any participation in the fund and lands specially set apart "for the maintenance of religion and the advancement of Christian knowledge within the said province of Canada," and thereby to withdraw from religion that support which it has hitherto received from this source.

The evils which will result from the renewed discussion of this question are many and formidable, affecting the tranquillity of the province by exciting and vehement agitation, and awakening the worst passions of rival parties, destroying all confidence in the security of rights granted by the beneficence of a pious monarch, and guaranteed by a British Act of Parliament, and, if the proposal now made be carried into effect, depriving many of the scattered settlements throughout the province of religious ordinances altogether, and leaving the religious instruction of a great proportion of the people (the surest bulwark of a nation) to men themselves ill-educated; for, whatever may be said in favour of the voluntary system of religious support, from sad experience it is here most manifest that it would be utterly inadequate to the wants and circumstances of the country.