

income is applied. You will further report, what are the methods at present adopted for applying the revenue towards the education of youth, and whether by any change in those methods the same end might not be answered more effectually for the general benefit of the province, and with more general approbation from the inhabitants at large. It will be fit also to consider whether the revenue itself might not be increased by a commutation of the feudal tenure upon which I apprehend the land to be at present held.

The constitution of the Legislative and Executive Councils is another subject which has undergone considerable discussion, but upon which His Majesty's Government must suspend their opinion until I shall have received some authentic information from your Excellency. You will, therefore, have the goodness to report to me, whether it would be expedient to make any alteration in the general constitution of those bodies, and especially how far it would be desirable to introduce a larger proportion of members not holding offices at the pleasure of the Crown; and if it should be considered desirable, how far it may be practicable to find a sufficient number of persons of respectability of this description.

The next topic upon which I must request your Excellency to furnish me with information, is that of the clergy reserves. You are of course aware of the warm discussions to which this subject has given rise in Upper Canada; and with a view to some general adjustment of this question, it is necessary that I should receive as complete information as can be obtained as to the extent and value of these lands; the means of most effectually and speedily rendering them a source of profit; the real extent of the inconvenience to which, by their means, the settlers in their vicinity are exposed; the possibility of providing any equivalent and less objectionable mode of maintaining a Protestant clergy; and the numerical proportion, as far as it can be ascertained, which the adherents of the churches of England and Scotland respectively bear to each other, and to other denominations of Christians in the province.

I have thus adverted, in order, to the various topics connected with the government of Lower Canada, upon which I find that any dissension has recently arisen in that province. One topic, indeed, more material than any other, may seem to have been omitted. I mean the inequality which appears to exist in the present system of representation, and the practical exclusion of the inhabitants of the townships from all share in the legislation of the province. This, however, is a subject on which I am unwilling to enlarge, because, without the assistance of Parliament, no effectual remedy can be applied, and the present discussion of the question, while it would answer no useful purpose, might tend to excite those feelings which it is my earnest desire to allay. I confine myself, therefore, to desiring that your Excellency will inform me what would be the best principle upon which, in your judgment, the province of Lower Canada could be divided for the purpose of representation, supposing that division were now for the first time to be made; and what would be the probable effect of introducing into Lower Canada the law respecting representation which has been established in the Upper Province.

In concluding this despatch, I would wish to impress upon your Excellency, and through you upon the members of the Provincial Government, and more especially upon the Executive and Legislative Councils, the necessity of cultivating a spirit of conciliation towards the House of Assembly, and of terminating, if possible, those dissensions with which the province has been too long agitated. The first step towards effecting this desirable object must be an oblivion of all past jealousies, and that step will, I trust, lead to a cordial concurrence in all measures calculated to advance the common good, in whatever quarter such measures may happen to originate. His Majesty relies, for the amicable adjustment of the various questions which have been so long in dispute, upon the loyalty and attachment hitherto evinced by His Canadian subjects at large, and on that of their representatives in the House of Assembly; upon the zeal and the upright intentions of the members of Council; and upon your own wisdom and moderation, happily combined, also, with a long personal acquaintance with the province which you have been appointed to govern. When the undivided attention of the Executive Government and Legislature shall be given to the advancement of the general interests of the province, in a spirit of cordial co-operation, there is no reason to doubt that Lower Canada will rapidly advance in prosperity, and emulate ere long the most opulent and flourishing provinces of the North American continent.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. MURRAY.