

CANADA.

SIR,

Montreal, March 6, 1851.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of his Excellency the Governor-General, copies of the various petitions, &c. on the subject of the Clergy Reserves, about to be forwarded to England from parties in connexion with the Presbyterian Church of Canada (Church of Scotland), in charge of a special agent, viz.—

1. Copy of memorial from the Clergy Reserve Commissioners to the Colonial Secretary.
2. Copy of petition to Her Majesty from the Clergy Reserve Commissioners.
3. Ditto, ditto, from the Synod.
4. Ditto, ditto, from the Lay Association.
5. Ditto, ditto, from the various congregations, 66 in number.

With respect to the remark in your letter of the 14th of January last, that “the regular course is that they should be transmitted through the Queen’s representative in the colony,” it is the opinion of the Commissioners that the regulations of the Colonial Department on the subject of correspondence were not intended, and do not apply in the present case; for in the first regulation it is distinctly stated, that “if a private individual residing in a colony has occasion to address any representation to the Secretary of State, he must at all times make the officer administering the colonial government the medium of his communication. The 4th and 5th regulations explain that the Governors of Colonies will receive with attention all representations properly addressed to them, and will either take such decisions on them as may appear most just, or refer them to the Secretary of State; and should the Governor’s decision not prove satisfactory, he will receive any remonstrances, &c.”

Now, I would submit that these petitions are not from a private individual, but from a branch of one of the established churches of the empire, and on a subject on which his Excellency the Governor-General has no power to decide, having himself, in compliance with the Address of the Legislative Assembly, transmitted their Address to the Imperial Government for its decision.

In the belief, therefore, that the course adopted will be no infringement of the regulations of the department, the petitions will be sent in charge of a special agent.

Hon. James Leslie, Provincial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.

HUGH ALLAN,
Secretary to the Commissioners.

SIR,

Secretary’s Office, Toronto, March 15, 1851.

I HAVE had the honour to receive and lay before the Governor-General your letter of the 6th instant, and the copies of the several petitions (5) therewith transmitted, on the subject of the Clergy Reserves, from parties in connexion with the Presbyterian Church of Canada (Church of Scotland), the originals of which petitions will, you state, be forwarded to England in charge of a special agent.

Hugh Allan, Esq.

Secretary to the Clergy Reserve Commissioners, Montreal.

I have, &c.

J. LESLIE.

No. 4.

No. 4.

(No. 82.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of ELGIN AND KINCARDINE to
Earl GREY.

Government House, Toronto, June 21, 1851.

Received July 8, 1851.

MY LORD,

(Answered July 18, 1851, No. 626, page 20.)

18 June 1851.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of a letter which has been addressed to my secretary by the secretary to the Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada in connexion with the British Conference, together with a copy of the resolutions referred to in that letter.

I have, &c.

ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.