

REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

At the commencement of the year 1880, the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, with almost unexampled generosity, voted the sum of 100,000 dollars, or in English currency £20,547 18s. 10d. sterling, towards the relief of the then existing distress in Ireland. This munificent donation was wisely left unfettered by all stipulations save one—that it should not be so expended as to deprive its recipients of the franchise.

The question, to whom should be entrusted the duty of administering in relief this large sum of money, as well as the manner and purposes of its application, being left to the decision of the Right Hon. Sir M. E. Hicks-Beach, Bart., the then Secretary to the Colonies, he, on the 13th of March, 1880, in an identical letter addressed to the Duchess of Marlborough, as President of the Fund inaugurated by Her Grace, and to the Right Honourable E. Dwyer Gray, M.P., the Lord Mayor of Dublin, as Chairman of the Mansion House Committee for the Relief of Distress in Ireland, suggested that a Special Committee, consisting of three members, selected from the Marlborough and Mansion House Committees respectively, should be chosen, and act as a distinct Committee for the disbursement of the Fund voted by the Canadian Parliament.

The following is the text of Sir M. E. Hicks-Beach's letter :—

“COLONIAL OFFICE, DOWNING STREET,

“13th March, 1880.

“MADAM,—I have the honour to acquaint your Grace that the
“Parliament of Canada has voted the sum of 100,000 dollars as a
“contribution towards the relief of the present distress in Ireland,
“and that the Government of the Dominion has requested me to
“decide in what manner this munificent donation, amounting to
“£20,547 sterling, should be applied, making only this stipulation,
“that the money shall not be so expended as to deprive its
“recipients of the franchise. After much consideration, I am dis-
“posed to think that the benevolent intentions of the Dominion
“Parliament might be most effectively carried out, and the greatest
“advantages secured to those whom it is desired to benefit, if a