

The two National Churches claim with justice the protection of the National Government: it is the interest of that Government to protect them, and there are at present, at its disposal, funds, in my opinion, fully adequate to meet every expense, to which this protection may expose it.

It seems to me that the Clergy Reserves, if put under proper management, would yield a revenue perfectly adequate to this purpose.—Hitherto, it is true, they have been almost entirely unproductive; but I am disposed to ascribe this circumstance to the system, which has been adopted in their management, having been formed, without due regard to the circumstances of the country, and the character of the settlers. Hitherto these lands have been offered to lease, for terms of only 21 years. Now this period, though sufficiently liberal in Great Britain, is altogether too short to meet the views of the Canadian Settler. Those, who seek to occupy wild lands, in this country, have made many sacrifices, and encountered much distress, ere they could even place themselves among us; they are prepared to make still greater sacrifices, and to task their endurance yet more severely, but they bear without repining the hardships and privations, to which they expose themselves, because they regard them as the price they have to pay for ultimate comfort and independence. Were they to give up the hopes of one day securing these to themselves and families, they must look on all they have already done, as thrown away, and would lose the chief incitement to future exertion. It is evident therefore, that leases of uncultivated land, for a term of years of which most, who come with an intention of settling in Canada, have a prospect of seeing a conclusion, at which time were they to accept them, they and their families would be again thrown—unprovided for on the world, are not very likely to be eagerly sought after. Besides this, if any one takes a lot of wild land in Canada, with the intention of living on it, and drawing his subsistence from its cultivation, 21 years is a period in general too short to repay him for his necessary trouble and expense. He must build a house to dwell in, a barn to secure his grain, and stables for his cattle; his lands must be fenced, and perhaps they may require to be drained. These improvements absorb the greater part of the capital, which his yearly labour accumulates, and, at the period when he is just beginning to reap the benefit of them, he is required to surrender them to another. For these reasons, no man of prudence and perseverance will accept of any of these lots, for the purpose of settling upon them; and such of them as are leased, are therefore held by those, who own adjoining farms, and who, by obtaining a lease, can more conveniently pillage these lots, of whatever valuable timber, or other natural productions they contain. Instead however, of leases of 21 years, were these lands offered for terms of 70, 80, or 100 years, I am persuaded that a very large portion of them would, in no long period, be taken up by actual settlers. There is a certain class of settlers to whom such leases would be invaluable.