

No. 16.

Canada Petition

The liberality of the Imperial Parliament did not stop here, as that provision could only be prospective, and as the wants of infant and growing colonies required, in a religious point of view, a more efficient succour, the Episcopalian clergy in these provinces have been allowed to participate in the sums voted annually by the Imperial Parliament, for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in the North American provinces.

Your Majesty's petitioners beg leave to express to Your Majesty their regret that the Presbyterian clergy in the Canadas have not hitherto been permitted to participate in any portion of the reserves arising from the lands so set apart for the maintenance of a Protestant clergy in the said province, nor have they received assistance from any other source.

Your Majesty's petitioners referring to the Act of Parliament passed in the 5th year of the reign of Queen Anne, c. 8, and finding the religion professed and established in the Church of Scotland, as well as that professed and established in the Church of England, to be there recognized as the true Protestant religion, are at a loss to conceive why their church should be placed in a worse situation than the Church of England, and why the ministers of their persuasion should not be considered as coming under the designation of a Protestant clergy.

Your Majesty's petitioners beg leave, most gracious Sovereign, to observe that the parent church, from which they sprung, has been eminently distinguished for diffusing the principles of religion and sound morals, and they are persuaded, from the experience of ages, and especially from the example of the land of their forefathers, that a people blessed with the advantages of a suitable provision for religious instruction and education, are thereby trained to order and virtue; and that in a country where effectual provision is made for these purposes, nothing remain for the Government but to enjoy the spectacle of its progressive improvement and increasing happiness, and to receive from a loyal, virtuous and happy people the spontaneous effusion of their gratitude and attachment.

Your petitioners, most gracious Sovereign, indulge the hope, that they may now obtain that support of which they stand in need, from the munificence of the Imperial Parliament, by being allowed to participate (as they humbly conceive they are entitled) in the revenues to be derived from the lands reserved for the support of a Protestant clergy, according to the ratio of their population, or in such other proportion as may be deemed equitable and just; and by granting to them such other provision as the Imperial Parliament may in its wisdom deem expedient.

Your Majesty's petitioners having reason to believe that the interests of the Protestant clergy of these provinces may become the subject of legislative enactment, during the ensuing session of Parliament, they most humbly beseech Your Majesty to weigh and consider the interests of Your Majesty's petitioners in the premises, and to do therein whatever to your Majesty may seem meet and just.

And Your Majesty's petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

Quebec, 20th December 1827.

(Here follows signatures of individuals to the amount of several hundreds.)

APPENDIX, No. 17.

No. 17.

Petition from
the Inhabitants
of Quebec.

Copy of the Petition from Inhabitants of Quebec, in favour of the Union of the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada.

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

The PETITION of the undersigned Seigniors, Magistrates, Members of the Clergy, Officers of Militia, Merchants, Landholders and others, Inhabitants of the City and District of Quebec, Province of Lower Canada.

Humbly