Hitherto the reserved lands have been inefficient from causes now very obvious, though not perhaps anticipated by the distinguished statesman who advised the appropriation.

These causes are—

- 1.—The great encouragement given by government to settlers of good character, by bestowing on them land on payment of a trifling fee.
- 2.—The gratuitous grants of land made to such persons as retained their loyalty during the American revolutionary war, and to officers, soldiers and sailors who served in the late war in Europe and America.
- 3.—The preference given by the colonists to lands in fee-simple to leases, even where the latter are more advantageous.
- 4.-The difficulty of collecting rents, from the smallness of the amount charged in each lot, and from being scattered over the whole province.
- 5.—So long as applicants can get lands of the best quality and in the most convenient situations for nothing, or a mere trifle, the natural consequence is, that rent of lands upon lease is almost nominal.

In regard to the gross rental of the leased lots, it amounts to about £. 1,200. per annum, and was for a long time swallowed up by the expense of making out the leases necessary to convey the title to the applicant; and though this item of expense has been removed, it is still reduced by the per centage of the sheriffs, who are employed to collect it, from persons scattered over a surface of nearly 40,000 square miles, so that the net sum actually paid over to the treasurer does not much exceed £. 400. per annum.

These things pressing forcibly on the minds of the Lord Bishop of Quebec and his Clergy, and on the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada and his Council, induced them to seek the power of selling the Clergy Reserves to a limited extent, as well as leasing them, leaving the proceeds to be disposed of as provided for in the 31 Geo. 3. c. 31. and this is the object of the Bill before Parliament.

From this measure they look for many important advantages:-

- 1.—A large portion of the country, now in a manner locked up, would be made free.
- 2.—The lessees would be more punctual in paying their rents, for fear of losing any claim to renewal or advantageous purchase.
- 3.—The means would be afforded of multiplying clergymen to any number that might be required.
- 4.—The popular objection against the reserves, as a barrier to improvement and internal communication, would in a great degree be removed.
- 5.—The Imperial Parliament would in a few years be relieved from the annual grant, in aid of the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, in as far as respects Upper Canada.
- 6.—Two or three hundred clergymen living in Upper Canada, in the midst of their congregations, and receiving the greater portion of their income from funds deposited in this country, must attach still more intimately the population of the colony to the parent state. Their influence would gradually spread. They would infuse into the inhabitants a tone and feeling entirely English; and acquiring by degrees the direction of education which the Clergy of England have always possessed, the very first feelings, sentiments and opinions of the youth must become British.

L have, &c.