

province, that the Imperial Legislation on this question should be final, they have always implicitly relied on its finality as expressed in the preamble of the Act aforesaid in these terms, "It is expedient to provide for the final disposition of the lands called Clergy Reserves in Canada."

That ever since the passing of the statute aforesaid, your Petitioners, the Synod of Canada in connexion with the Church of Scotland, the Supreme Judicature of our Church in this province, in full reliance that the temporal aid secured to them might be deemed fixed and permanent, proceeded with greater zeal to invite qualified ministers to come to Canada, and settled them over congregations in destitute localities. And further, this synod for several years past has been using every exertion to train up a learned native ministry, employing, after the higher motives, the inducement that the aid to be derived from the Clergy Reserve Fund, supplemented by the liberality of the people, promised a secure though scanty support for them when they should be admitted to the ministerial office; and your Petitioners in these prospects have been enabled to extend the ministrations of the Church in Canada; and they entertained the hope, that as the fund increased, and the spiritual necessities of their people required, they might be able to provide ministers who should take oversight of the flock in the fear of God.

That your Petitioners, cherishing such hopes, and proceeding peaceably in their work, have been afflicted to see a new agitation stirred up on this question, which they had regarded as finally settled, and a series of resolutions passed in the Legislative Assembly, on which an Address to Your Majesty has been voted, to the effect that the Imperial Statute should be repealed, and the whole question be admitted to the Colonial Legislature to be dealt with anew.

That your Petitioners most humbly submit to Your Majesty, that such a course, if adopted, would produce most serious evils in this colony; it would shake the confidence of the best disposed in the stability of the institutions under which we have the happiness to live; it would renew the agitation and strife which for so many years convulsed the people of this province on this question; and if unhappily our Colonial Legislature should pursue a course which has among our promiscuous population many advocates, and divert the Clergy Reserve Fund from religious to secular purposes, your Petitioners could not but regard such an event as peculiarly afflictive and disastrous, both to the actual incumbents and to the spiritual well-being of future generations.

May it therefore please Your Majesty to consider favourably the prayer of your Petitioners, and to hold the existing law on the matter referred to as a final arrangement; that the congregations of our Church may continue to be assisted out of the Clergy Reserve Fund in the support of their ministers; and that we, and our posterity after us, may enjoy the blessing of pure Christianity, which teaches all orders of men to fear God and honour the King.

And Your Petitioners will ever pray.

J. MALCOLM SMITH, M.A.,
Moderator of Synod.

Unto Her most Gracious Majesty VICTORIA, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, with all their Colonies and Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

THE MEMORIAL of the Board of Commissioners, elected by the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connexion with the Church of Scotland, in terms of the Act 3 & 4 Victoria, cap. 78., entitled "An Act," &c.,

HUMBLY SHOWETH—

THAT your Memorialists were duly appointed and constituted a Board of Commissioners for expending the share of the proceeds of sales of the lands set apart for the support of a Protestant Clergy, appropriated to the Church of Scotland in Canada by virtue of the Act aforesaid.

That from the terms, "It is expedient to provide for the final disposition of the lands called Clergy Reserves in Canada," in the preamble of the said Act, your Memorialists regarded the provisions therein contained as a final settlement of the question; and they have every reason to believe that they were received as such by Your Majesty's subjects generally in the Province of Canada.

That though the share awarded, in terms of the said Act, to the Church of Scotland, was not as much as the members of that Church considered it entitled to receive, yet as the country had been long distracted with the subject, and a settlement of it was desirable for the public good, they acquiesced in the decision, rather than that the agitation should be prolonged, to the manifest injury of the peace and prosperity of the colony.

That your Memorialists lament to perceive that by an Address from the House of Assembly of this province, carried only by a narrow majority, a large proportion of the members of which assembly are Roman Catholics, an attempt is made again to open up this question, and revive the troubles and dissensions formerly experienced.

That the same House of Assembly has of late years almost unanimously granted Acts of Incorporation to numerous bodies of Roman Catholics, conferring upon them extensive privileges, and entitling them to hold fixed property to an enormous value.

That the object of the attempt now made is to dispossess the Church of Scotland and other religious bodies of any participation in the fund and lands specially set apart for