

No. 4.
 Sir G. Arthur to
 Lord John Russell,
 27 May 1840.

desultory character, and I am induced to believe that there is not any concentration of objection which will materially militate against the measure being fully and fairly carried into operation.

A very strong feeling exists upon the subject of the clergy reserves amongst all classes of persons, and I feel quite satisfied that it is the general wish of all parties that the subject should not again be remitted to the local legislature, but should in some form or other be set at rest in England.

I observe that a right reverend prelate has in his place in the House of Lords "expressed it as his opinion that his Excellency the Governor-general has given a greater degree of importance to the feeling excited upon this subject than it really deserves." I cannot refrain from saying that, in my view of the case, his Excellency has rather understated the importance which is attached to the settlement of this question by the people here.

I consider that it is regarded as a subject of the most vital consequence to the welfare and happiness of this country; and that the people generally, and more particularly the Scotch portion of them, have always felt this in the most eminent degree. I also think the right reverend prelate labours under some misapprehension in supposing that any difference of a serious character existed between myself and the members of the Scotch Church. I never considered that which occurred upon my first arrival in this country more than a mere ebullition of a temporary character; and I think I am borne out in saying that the most cordial feeling has always existed between that body and myself. A manifestation of this occurred recently, when the synod took an opportunity of expressing their sentiments in an address, a copy of which, and of my answer, I have the honour to enclose for your Lordship's information.

Probably it may even at this late period be of some use to mention a plan which I had under consideration for the settlement of the Clergy Reserve Question in 1839, and which I then thought it likely would be satisfactory to the country, and which I am inclined to think would still be so. The plan I allude to, contemplated giving a specific portion of these reserves to the two Churches of England and Scotland, and the remainder for educational purposes, with a view to meet the wishes of that portion of the community which appear to desire that mode of application. I, however, merely throw this out for your Lordship's consideration.

I have, &c.

(signed) George Arthur.

Enclosure in No. 4.

(Copy.)

Unto his Excellency Sir *George Arthur*, K. C. H., Lieutenant-governor of the Province of Upper Canada, a Major-general commanding Her Majesty's Forces therein, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, the Commission of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connexion with the Church of Scotland, embrace the opportunity of our assembling in this city to express the sentiments of esteem and respect which we entertain for your Excellency. During the critical and perilous times of your Excellency's administration, it was felt by us to be a token for good that the Supreme Disposer of all things had directed our Sovereign the Queen to delegate Her authority in this province to one who had been approved by fidelity, wisdom and zeal for the public welfare in another dependency of the Crown. And we attribute, under the Divine Blessing, much of the harmony and confidence which prevailed among our fellow-subjects, while opposed to the lawless aggressions of wicked men, and tempted as many were to insurrection, to the well-grounded confidence which the community at large reposed in your Excellency; and when we may no longer enjoy the presence of his Excellency the Governor-general, it will be to us a matter of unfeigned satisfaction that the reins of Government will be recommitted into your Excellency's hands.

Permit us, in conclusion, to say, that we, and we trust we may say our people in their solemn assemblies, do pray, and will continue to pray, that He who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords may bless your Excellency in your person, family and administration, and render that administration subservient to the temporal and spiritual well-being of the community,