

municated to the House of Assembly in which his Lordship treated the question as one to be settled by the Provincial Legislature, and declined to interfere with the deliberations of the Legislature by offering any suggestions of his own.

That the twelfth Parliament having been dissolved by Sir Francis Head, a general election was held at a period of great excitement, and the question of the disposal of the Clergy Reserves appears to have been lost sight of during the political struggle which ensued. That during the first three sessions of the thirteenth Parliament, various efforts were made to settle the question, but without any satisfactory result. That at length in the course of the third session, a Bill which had passed the Legislative Council providing for the reinvestment of the said Reserves in the Imperial Parliament, was concurred in by a majority of 22 to 21.

That in the year 1839, during the fifth and last session of the last Parliament of Upper Canada, a Message was sent down to the House by the Governor-General, the Right Hon. C. P. Thomson, by which the House was informed, that the Bill passed during the previous session had not received the Royal Assent, there being an insuperable objection to it on a point of form. That his Excellency stated, moreover, that in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the Provincial Legislature would bring to the decision of the question an extent of accurate information as to the wants and general opinion of society in this country in which the Imperial Parliament was unavoidably deficient.

That another attempt at settlement was made during the last session of the last Parliament of Upper Canada, when a Bill passed both Houses providing for the sale and disposal of the Clergy Reserves, which Bill having been reserved for the Royal Assent was not assented to by your Majesty.

That on your Majesty's decision to withhold the Royal Assent from the said Bill, your Majesty's Government submitted to the Imperial Parliament a Bill providing for the sale and distribution of the proceeds of the Clergy Reserves, which, so far from settling this long-agitated question, has left it to be the subject of renewed and increased public discontent.

And we humbly beg leave further to represent to your Majesty, that apart from the objections entertained by the great majority of your Majesty's subjects in Canada to religious endowments, by which certain favoured denominations of Christians are kept in connexion with the State, and thereby placed in a position of superiority over others, the present disposition of the revenue derived from the Clergy Reserves investments is manifestly unjust.

That the entire revenue derived from the investments made before the passing of the Imperial Act 3 and 4 Victoria, chapter 78, has been thereby assigned to the Churches of England and Scotland, to the exclusion of the Wesleyan Episcopal and New Connexion Methodists, the Free Presbyterian Church of Canada, the United Presbyterian Church, the Baptists, Congregationalists, and other religious bodies whose pastors have an equal claim to the designation of a Protestant clergy with those of the clergy of the Churches of England and Scotland.

That it appears from the facts above stated, that during a long period of years, and in nine successive sessions of the Provincial Parliament, the Representatives of the people of Upper Canada, with an unanimity seldom exhibited in a deliberative body, declared their opposition to religious endowments of the character above referred to. That the wishes of the people were thwarted by the Legislative Council, a body containing a majority avowedly favourable to the ascendancy of the Church of England. That the Imperial Government from time to time invited the Provincial Parliament to legislate on the subject of these Reserves, disclaiming on the part of the Crown any desire for the superiority of one or more particular Churches. That your Majesty's Government, in declining to advise the Royal Assent being given to a Bill passed by a majority of one, for investing the power of disposing of the Reserves in the Imperial Parliament, admitted that from its accurate information as to the wants and general opinions of society (in which the Imperial Parliament was unavoidably deficient), the question could be more satisfactorily settled by the Provincial Legislature. That subsequently to the withholding of the Royal Assent from the last-mentioned Bill, the Imperial Parliament passed an Act disposing of the proceeds of the Clergy Reserves in a manner entirely contrary to the formerly repeatedly expressed wishes of the Upper Canadian people as declared through their Representatives, and acknowledged as such in a message sent to the Provincial Parliament by command of your Majesty's royal predecessor.

That we are humbly of opinion that the legal or constitutional impediments which stood in the way of provincial legislation on this subject, should have been removed by an Act of the Imperial Parliament, but that the appropriation of revenues derived from the investment of the proceeds of the public lands of Canada, by the Imperial Parliament, will never cease to be a source of discontent to your Majesty's loyal subjects in this province; and that when all the circumstances connected with this question are taken into consideration, no religious denomination can be held to have such vested interest in the revenue derived from the proceeds of the said Clergy Reserves, as should prevent further legislation with reference to the disposal of them, but we are nevertheless of opinion that the claims of existing incumbents should be treated in the most liberal manner; and that the most liberal and equitable mode of settling this long-agitated question, would be for the Imperial Parliament to pass an Act providing that the stipends and allowances heretofore assigned and given to the clergy of the Church of England and Scotland, or to any other