

CLERGY RESERVES IN CANADA.

9

Enclosure in No. 4.

CANADA.

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SIR,

Office, 57, King Street East, Wednesday, 18 June 1851.

At the twenty-eighth annual conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada, in connexion with the British Conference, met in this city on the 4th instant, and continued by adjournment until Friday the 13th instant, it was resolved:

That a copy of the resolutions introduced by the Reverend Messrs. G. R. Sanderson and William Ryerson on the Clergy Reserve question, be sent to his Excellency the Governor-General, and another copy with a request to have it transmitted by him to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

In accordance with the terms of this minute, two copies of the resolutions are enclosed.

I have, &c.

Colonel the Hon. R. Bruce,
Secretary, &c.

JAMES MUSGRAVE,
Secretary to the Conference.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure in No. 4.

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Resolutions of the Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada, in connexion with the British Conference, on the subject of the Clergy Reserves.

Ques. 17.—What is the judgment of this Conference on the present position of the question of the Clergy Reserves?

Ans.—After a review and careful Consideration of the general question, and of the just rights of the methodist portion of the community, which according to the last census amounts to one hundred and forty thousand souls, or one fifth of the population of Upper Canada, the Conference agrees unanimously in the adoption of the following Resolutions:—

1. That this Conference has ever viewed the Imperial Statute, 4th and 5th Victoria, chapter 78, an infringement of the constitutional rights of the people of Upper Canada, as possessed by them for nearly fifty years, involves the constitutional Act of 1791, 31st George 3d, chapter 31, wholly at variance with the sentiments and feelings of the Canadian people, and most unjust to the Wesleyan and several other religious denominations, constituting a large majority of the population of Upper Canada; that on these and several other public grounds this Conference, through its representatives, in a communication addressed by them to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, and dated London, July 27, 1840, earnestly remonstrated against the passing of said Act, 4th and 5th Victoria, chapter 78, when a Bill before Parliament.

2. That the said Act having not only done injustice to the great majority of the people of Upper Canada, but deprived the province of a right of legislation which it had long possessed, and on a subject affecting its highest social relations and dearest interests, this Conference has regarded the Clergy Reserve question, in its new aspect, as one between Canada and Great Britain, rather than one between different religious persuasions, and therefore as requiring provincial action rather than denominational agitation.

3. That this Conference has observed with regret the efforts of a portion of the clergy and members of the Churches of England and Scotland to secure peculiar pecuniary advantages for themselves, at the expense of perpetuating a wrong against their country, and against their brethren of other protestant churches.

4. That under these circumstances, this Conference, constituting by far the largest as well as the oldest body of protestant clergymen in Upper Canada, and exercising pastoral oversight over upwards of one thousand congregations, including more than one hundred thousand adherents, feels itself called upon to avow its cordial and unanimous concurrence in the efforts of our Legislative Assembly, at its last session, to obtain to this country the restoration of its constitutional rights of legislation on the subject of the Clergy Reserves; and this Conference desires at the same time to express its warmest gratitude for the decision of the Imperial Government to take the necessary steps to restore to the Canadian Legislature the power of disposing of the Clergy Reserves and the proceeds of the sales of them, according to the wishes of the people, as expressed through their representatives in Parliament assembled, a decision communicated by the Right Honourable the Earl Grey to his Excellency the Earl of Elgin in a despatch pervaded by sentiments and a spirit of just regard to the feelings and rights of Her Majesty's faithful Canadian subjects, among whom none have evinced more loyalty and devotedness than the clergy and congregations of the Wesleyan Methodists church in Upper Canada.

5. That this Conference protests against the administration of those clauses of the unjust Act, 4th and 5th Victoria, chapter 78, which add to the already disproportionate appropriations to the Churches of England and Scotland, while other clauses of the same Act relating to other religious persuasions are not administered at all, even in aid of denominational efforts to promote education; and this Conference also records its solemn protest against any measure for any endowment or grant in perpetuity to the Church of England or of Scotland, not secured upon equal conditions to every other protestant denomination in Upper Canada.

6. That this Conference avails itself of the present occasion of declaring its deter-