

A PASTORAL LETTER

FROM

The Clergy of the Church of Scotland
IN THE CANADAS,

TO THEIR PRESBYTERIAN BRETHERN,

On the subject now agitated between them and the Clergy of the Church of England, relative to the appropriation of the Lands reserved for the support of a Protestant Clergy in these Provinces.

BRETHREN!

WERE the present simply a question of temporal provision, and affecting solely our own interests, we should not have deemed it our duty to address you on this occasion; but, to use the language of our opponents, the question is one which "nearly affects the interests of our Church," and which involves, if not her immediate existence, at least her respectability and permanence, in these Provinces. To abandon our claims, therefore, without a struggle, would be not only pusillanimous, but a dereliction of a solemn duty—it would be to prove ourselves unworthy of the invaluable inheritance which was purchased for us with the best blood of our brave and pious ancestors.

Were we to notice the many undisguised attacks that have been made upon us—leaving out of the question those that have been clandestine and insidious—it would abundantly appear how little prone we are to controversy, and how much hitherto we have sacrificed to peace and charity. Indeed, we are little moved by anonymous pamphlets and anonymous communications in public journals; and when recently a celebrated Chart drew upon its author the indignation of the whole community, though we considered it an object meriting the severest censure, we are in no way responsible for any vehemence or acrimony it may have been the cause of eliciting. We, on our part, can truly say that we have never attacked any party, nor done any thing calculated to create excitement or provoke controversy. We did, indeed, in the year 1820, petition His Majesty's Government for protection and support to our Church, and claimed, in virtue of what we believe to be our Constitutional Rights, a participation in the Clergy Reserves. In no other way can it be alledged, with truth, that