

tility against the Government on the question of Public Education. The Missionary Secretaries determined at length to exercise their assumed authority and influence (which they supposed by this time to be sufficiently established) in Upper Canada, in relation to these matters. Consequently, in February, 1839, they addressed a letter to the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada relative to the "*position of the Methodists of Upper Canada*" "as to certain *ecclesiastical questions*"—disclaiming all participation in the sentiments of Methodist publications in Upper Canada on these subjects—and informing His Excellency that they had appointed one of their number, Mr. Alder, to proceed to Canada and "exert his well-earned consideration and influence" with the Ministers and members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, in order to enforce and carry out the views of the London Missionary Committee on these "ecclesiastical questions." Such a communication to the Head of the Government in Upper Canada was a bold and officious interference on the part of the Missionary Secretaries in London with matters in which the feelings and rights and interests of the inhabitants of Canada alone were concerned. The obvious intention and tendency of their communication was to impress upon the Government of Upper Canada, that the Missionary Secretaries and their Agents were alone to be consulted on the part of "the Methodists of Upper Canada" in the settlement of those "ecclesiastical questions"—thus striking a fatal blow at the rights and authority of the Conference in Canada as the Head and Representative of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in the Province. When published in Canada, this letter was universally reprobated both by Methodists and other classes of the community. The Lieutenant Governor, however, acted upon it, and, during the latter part of March and April, 1839, when the Clergy Reserve Question was under the consideration of the Provincial Legislature, His Excellency conferred exclusively with the Representatives of the Missionary Secretaries; their name and influence were employed amongst the members of the Legislature in opposition to the sentiments of the organ of the Canada Conference; and in a bill introduced into the Provincial Legislature it was provided that the portion of the proceeds of the Reserves professedly intended for the Wesleyan Methodist Church should be given to the "*Wesleyan Methodists in connexion with the BRITISH WESLEYAN CONFERENCE*"—not recognizing the *Conference in Canada*, leaving its very name as well as authority entirely out of the question. Our ministerial Brethren doubtless recollect that when their Secretary and Editor laid these circumstances before the Conference assembled at Hamilton in June, 1839, and stated the embarrassments which he had experienced in consequence of them in maintaining the views and rights of the Church during the preceding session of the Legislature, that his Brethren not only expressed their disapprobation of any such interference, but, at his suggestion, and in compliance with his wish, after they had re-appointed him their organ and representative for the ensuing year, they did,—*in order to prevent any such counter-representations, under any apparently official sanction, being made to the Government, and in order to secure the proper representation and guardianship of the views and rights of the Church in Canada,—refer the Clergy Reserve Question specially to the Book Committee.*